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THE TIMES

No 61,151 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 1982 Price twenty pence

S African white dies in detention

A young white trade unionist has been found hanged in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg. Dr Neil Aggett, detained in a round-up of political activists, is the first white among the 46 people who have died in security police custody since 1963 Page 5

Segregate fans, says minister

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, has told Spain of the need to segregate British football fans from the supporters of other teams playing in the World Cup. The Spaniards were now aware of the problems of "our so-called football fans", he said.

Soviet general expelled by US

General Vasily Chitov, the senior military officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, has been expelled for "activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status". He was said to have been found in possession of incriminating documents. Norway has also expelled two Soviet diplomats Page 4

North Sea oil prices cut

North Sea oil prices are being cut by $1.50 a barrel as a result of the world oil glut. But the oil companies are unlikely to pass the reduction to the motorist Page 15

SDP denounced as 'weasels'

The SDP decision to vote for Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill was denounced by Labour leaders and one of the party's own MPs. Mr Denis Healey dubbed the SDP "Tebbit's Troopers" and said its leaders were acting like "weasels in a sack" Back page

Easy victory for Herr Schmidt

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, seeking a confirmation of his domestic and foreign policies, easily won a vote of confidence in the Bundestag. Deputies of the two coalition parties gave unanimous backing to the motion, carried by a majority of 43 Page 4

Indian father is deported

The Indian husband of a young Asian woman from Birmingham who recently gave birth was sent back to India because of the new law on foreign husbands. The case is being used in a campaign against the immigration rules Page 2

Shells greet Carrington

Two Vietnamese shells landed in a Cambodian refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border less than an hour before Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived. Lord Carrington, who is visiting Thailand saw food being distributed to some 13,000 Cambodian women Page 5

Toxteth pledge

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, denied that he was about to abandon the community policing experiment in Toxteth because of attacks on officers. Despite difficulties, his men were determined to see the system work Page 2

Vauxhall stars

Vauxhall, General Motors' United Kingdom subsidiary, sold 14,393 cars last month—more than at any time since June, 1978. The Cavalier was third best seller, and the Astra sixth Page 15

Golden girls

June Croft, aged 18, of Wigan, won two gold medals and Jackie Willmott, aged 16, of Southend, one gold medal in the freestyle events on the first day of the Arena international swimming meeting in Paris Page 20

Laker Airways collapses with debts of £270m

Three young Americans, stranded by the Laker collapse yesterday, waiting disconsolately in London.

Sir Freddie to meet receiver today

By Staff Reporters

Laker Airways collapsed yesterday owing £270m to banks and other creditors. Sir Freddie Laker, pioneer of cheap air travel, gave up the battle to save his airline after months of frantic negotiations and the breakdown of last-minute attempts to mount a rescue.

He asked Clydesdale Bank to appoint a receiver after a board meeting at Gatwick airport, London, at 8 am.

The airline's future would be known in less than a week, Mr Bill Mackey, the receiver, said. "There is no way that Sir Freddie Laker can carry on with this business in its pres netform. It has to be sold." Mr Mackey is to meet Sir Freddie today.

The Civil Aviation Authority had given notice to take effect in six days to withdraw the operating licence for the fleet of aircraft owned by the Laker group, he added.

The airline's stranded passengers would have the return half of scheduled tickets honoured by British Airways, Pan Am, Air Florida, and British Caledonian.

Earlier this week it seemed that agreement on saving the airline was close and Sir Freddie announced that his financial troubles were over. But information then emerged showing that Laker's ticket sales and bookings were much worse than expected, and the talks among the creditor banks broke down.

The airline's collapse left passengers and holidaymakers stranded all round the world, and Laker aircraft fying from Britain were recalled in mid-flight.

The last-ditch attempts to save Laker involved ministerial talks and the Prime Minister was kept informed. But the Government indicated from an early stage that it expected any help for Laker to come from the private sector and decided on Thursday afternoon, after a telephone call from Sir Freddie to the Department of Trade, that there could be no state rescue.

Sir Freddie was still struggling to pull together a deal until early yesterday. But talks a tthe Gatwick Hilton involving Samuel Montagu, Laker's merchant bank, and Intasun, the holiday company, came to nothing.

In a statement yesterday, Sir Freddie said that the facilities available to Laker from its bankers and the arrangements reached with McDonnell Douglas were not considered adequate by others to meet the company's needs over the next few months. The company was deeply concerned that there should be no risk to passengers who could be stranded if the airline collapsed in the summer.

Mr Bill Mackey, of accountants, Ernst and Whinney, who is the company's newly appointed receiver, said last night that it was highly unlikely that even a limited Laker service would continue. He had spent the afternoon in talks with about 10 other airlines in an attempt to reach agreement on bringing stranded Laker passengers back

He said he had high hopes of securing agreement on the Laker passengers on scheduled flights, of whom there were about 5,000, but said charter passengers were governed by different regulations. No agreement had yet been reached on those passengers.

He added that although it was unlikely that the Skytrain business would continue, "it may be possible to continue the tour business".

Laker passengers with tickets but who had not gone on flights would be treated as unsecured creditors by the liquidator. They should make their claims for refunds through their agents. But he did not know what their chance of success would be.

He said the airline's employees had been told that they would be getting their next pay cheques, but after that the position was uncertain.

On the future of Laker, he said: "If no one takes it over, then we will close it down".

In the Commons, Mr Iain Sproat, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, gave an assurance that everything possible was being done to help the airline's 10,000 stranded passengers, saying that there was about £23m available for their repatriation if that much was required.

He said that passengers who had paid for a package holiday would be protected in the first instance by the bond that Laker's tour opeating companies had provided as a condition of their air travel organizers' liceences. He added, however, that those arrangements would not cover people travelling on Skytrain scheduled services.

In all, Laker had a fleet of 16 aircraft and employed 2,600 people.

Midland Bank Group is expected to be one of the worst sufferers from Laker's collapse. Its subsidiary, Clydesdale Bank, may lose up to £9m, according to City sources.

Bankers said Laker's losses were running at £15m to £20m a year. It owes banks £230m with a further £40m owed to unsecured creditors. Assets were estimated at about £250m.

☐ The airline industry was awash with crocodile tears yesterday as its leaders publicly bewailed and privately rejoiced over Laker's collapse. Bankruptcy among airlines has been seen for months as the quickest and most direct way to get rid of over-capacity on the Atlantic routes.

There was personal sympathy for Sir Freddie and his staff, but there was also an immediate and not entirely disinterested rush of practical help for the airline's stranded passengers. Laker has been carrying about a quarter of the passengers travelling between Britain and New York, and the fight got under way to pick up his customers.

Air Florida, Laker's arch-rival, said: "It is tragic, because Laker was a fine airline. But there is going to be a lot of traffic out there to be picked up, and in that sense it is good".

End of a dream: Sir Freddie Laker's aircraft grounded at Gatwick Airport yesterday.

Passengers stranded at British airports

By Nicholas Timmins and John Witherow

A Laker Airbus flight from Manchester to Tenerife was turned back an hour-and-a-half out over the Bay of Biscay yesterday, as news of the company's crash came through. The 311 package holidaymakers on board were brought back to Manchester.

A second Laker flight, a DC10 scheduled Skytrain to Miami, due to leave at 10.00 am, was halted after its 191 passengers had boarded, stranding them and others due to be picked up at Prestwick.

About 300 people were booked on cancelled Skytrains from Gatwick to Los Angeles, New York and Miami yesterday. Behind the Laker counter, where the beleaguered staff fended off interminable questions from confused and occasionally angry passengers, the airline proudly displayed its cheap fares of £90 to New York and £109 to Miami.

Some of the scheduled passengers to the United States were taken to Heathrow, and flown by PanAm and Air Florida to their destinations. But many will have to pay for an extra fare, and then hope to recover their money at a later stage.

A PanAm spokesman said: "We are accepting Laker tickets today and tomorrow only. Although we have got no mutual agreement we are taking a chance. We may get our money or we may not."

Hundreds of passengers were also due to fly to Málaga and Athens yesterday, but were told to contact their travel agents to arrange other flights.

As a member of the Association of British Travel Agents, Laker Airways will be covered by an agreement designed to protect passengers on package holidays in the event of airlines going out of business. But it is not a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and travel representatives at Gatwick thought this could mean that passengers on scheduled flighgs would not get their money back immediately.

☐ Miami: Violence erupted at the Laker counter at Miami airport yesterday, as dozens of passengers crowded around demanding refunds. A clerk working near by said: "Everyone was shouting. I saw one middle-aged gentleman take a swing at a man behind the counter. He punched him right in the face."

McDonnell Douglas may quit civil aviation

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

McDonnell Douglas, the big United States aircraft manufacturer which stands to lose up to $50m (£26m) after the Laker collapse, could become the second of the world's four major plane makers to abandon civil aircraft production.

Such a move, which has been widely expected within the aviation industry since Lockheed's decision in December to end TriStar production, was made even more likely with the sudden announcement by McDonnell yesterday that it had pulled out of its partnership with Fokker of Holland to develop the MDF-100, a new 150-seater airliner for the late 1980s.

McDonnell put a brave face on the latest developments. Mr Ray Daffry, the company's United States spokesman, said: "We are not considering pulling out of the commercial aircraft business". In Britain, an official said the MDF-100 decision was not connected with the Laker affair and added that McDonnell would continue design work on a 150-seater airliner and would be talking to potential partners.

But there must be considerable doubt about McDonnell's future presence in the civil aircraft market. Last year 62 per cent of the company's sales were military and 38 per cent commercial, with the civil airliner operations recording a loss of $85m.

McDonnell has been in the forefront in trying to put together a financial package to save Laker. Part of the proposed restructuring of Laker's finances was a conversion into preference shareholdings of at least some of the $46m debt guaranteed by McDonnell in relation to the DC10s, and the United States manufacturer was also expected to lend up to £4m to the airline.

Arthur Reed writes: Airbus Industrie, the European consortium with France, West Germany, and Britain as its main partners, is taking a fairly relaxed view of the Laker collapse, even though he has ten A300-B4 300-seaters on order, three of which have so far been delivered.

An Airbus spokesmen said from Toulouse that the A300 and A310 appeared to be the main aircraft which the airlines of the world want today. The inference is that Airbus will have no difficulty in placing the seven Laker-ordered aircraft.

Whitehall reveals curbs on Poland

By Simon Scott Plummer

Britain announced yesterday measures against Poland and the Soviet Union to mark its disapproval of the military takeover in Poland. They include travel restrictions on Polish and Soviet officials in Britain and tighter terms for credit.

Britain is the first European Nato country to give details of its reaction to the imposition of martial law in Poland. Its allies, apart from Greece, which has disassociated itself from such a course, are expected to follow suit over the next few days.

The measures against Poland include:

Travel by Polish diplomats, officials and journalists restricted to within 25 miles of London and Glasgow, where there is a Polish Consulate;

Government-backed credits for Poland suspended as is the rescheduling of Poland's 1982 official debt; Officially guaranteed credits to Poland go into abeyance, subject to safeguarding the interests of British firms with contractual obligations.

Britain and its EEC partners have agreed to stop sales of cut-price food to Poland.

BBC Polish-language broadcasts will be increased by five hours a week to 26½ hours.

The restrictions applied to the Soviet Union are:

A reduction from 35 to 25 miles in the distance Soviet officials can travel outside London without special permission; A reduction in activity under Anglo-Soviet technical cooperation agreements, covering medicine and public health, environmental protection, agricultural research and atomic energy.

A licensing system for Soviet factory ships loading fish caught in British waters; Renegotiation of the 1968 Anglo-Soviet treaty on merchant navigation; exploring, with other EEC nations the possibilit of reclassifying the Soviet Union within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development export credit consensus. This would put the Russians in a relatively rich, instead of an intermediate category, thus raising loan interest rates.

Pravda backs purge, page 4

Unions fear MSC job losses

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The removal by the Government of Sir Richard O'Brien as chairman of the Manpower Services Commission and his replacement by Mr David Young, a former aide of Sir Keith Joseph, could be the prelude to attempts to reduce the size of the public employment service.

Sir Derek Rayner, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's adviser on cutting waste in the Civil Service, is conducting a study of the employment service, which is administered by the MSC, and is expected to produce recommendations for greater involvement of private enterprise in the jobs market. The report is due to be completed next month.

Sir Richard yesterday issued a statement in which he made clear that he wanted to stay on as chairman for a third three-year term of office. "The Secretary of State decided he wanted a change. Naturally, I accept that".

He believed it was important that the MSC should continue the work that it has been doing in recent years, a view echoed by Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, who added: "Sir Richard O'Brien is to be replaced by a property manager; a side kick of the monetarist guru, Sir Keith Joseph".

It is thought that the TUC's three representatives on the Commission will not be resigning as a result of the appointment of Mr Young and believe it is important to remain commissioners to ensure that the MSC does not become Mr Tebbit's "puppet".

Sir Richard has had many brushes with the Government; only this week, the MSC produced its corporate plan for the next four years which contained evidence to support the TUC's claim that the real level of unemployment is about four million.

The Government has asked the MSC to investigate ways of turning the Professional and Executive Recruitment service over to the private sector. A reduction in the operations of Jobcentres, with private agencies stepping in to fill the gap, would lead to reduction in the numbers of civil servants staffing the centres.

It is thought that such a move, if suggested by the Rayner inquiry, would have been resisted by Sir Richard but is likely to be more acceptable to Mr Young. Reducing the role of Jobcentres would also help to meet the Government's target of cutting the size of the Civil Service to 630,000 posts by 1984.

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Leading article, page 7

Freed Briton talks to 'The Times'

Pyke's ordeal in Iran jails

By Mario Modiano in Athens and David Cross in London

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman who had spent longer in captivity in Iran than the American hostages, arrived in Athens yesterday to be reunited with his Dutch wife, Ursula. "I'm feeling great It's nice to see the world again", he told *The Times*.

Mr Pyke, aged 42, who was released from jail just over a week ago and spent the past few days waiting in the Swedish Embassy in Tehran for his exit papers to be cleared, arrived on a regular Iranian flight looking fit in a dark blue jacket and corduroy trousers. British Embassy officials took him to an undisclosed destination, where he met his wife for the first time in privacy since he was arrested about 17 months ago.

He had orivinally planned to continue his journey home yesterday but because his flight was delayed by a couple of hours he and his wife decided to spend the night in Athens

Speaking to *The Times* in London by telephone before he left the Iranian capital, he described in detail his sudden release from prison and the reasons behind it.

It all happened very quickly in the end, he said. The first sign that his release might be imminent came when he was transferred from Karaj prison, about 25 miles outside Tehran, to the notorious Evin prison in the centre of the capital on about January 19.

Then on the Saturday of that week (January 23) he was called before an examining judge for an informal hearing on his case. Four days later he agreed to make a video tape either for the Iranian authorities' files or for local broadcast. (He was not completely sure how the recording would be used). Then a day later he was handed over to the custody of the Swedish Embassy, which looks after British interests in Iran.

Asked about the video recording, Mr Pyke said that he had been asked by the Iranians to talk about his treatment in jail, particularly the Evin prison where he spent the first few months of his improsonment as well as his final ten days in captivity. When he asked why the authorities wanted a recording of his views, they had responded: "Well, there's so much bad publicity about Evin that if a foreigner goes on TV and says it (that conditions are not bad) maybe people would believe him."

Mr Pyke said that he had agreed to make the recording "because I simply told the truth and didn't have to hide anything unpleasant that happened to me personally. I was well-treated, never ill-treated at all physically. Mentally, you know, the uncertainty of being locked up like that is different. But my physical treatment was excellent."

Asked why he thought he had been released so suddenly he said that he had been "innocent, totally innocent and they couldn't find anything wrong in my company or personal affairs".

Finally, he thought the Iranian authorities had had enough of him. "I had been there a long time (and they probably thought) let's get rid of him. You know, he's becoming a bit of a stone around our necks, this guy, politically."

During the long, exclusive interview, Mr Pyke said he believed that he had been almost freed from prison last summer. On June 11, he said, he had signed a document stating that he accepted the terms of a guarantee whereby he would be released from prison but would stay in Iran until authorization came through for him to leave.

The very next day, the prison was closed to the public because of a new crisis with local terrorists. It was then that he was transferred to Karaj prison.

Lord McCarthy weighs up rail case without Aslef

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Lord McCarthy is cautionsly beginning work on his Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service-sponsored inquiry into the rail pay dispute without the participation of the striking train drivers' union.

Aftr three days of fruitless attempts to involve leaders of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) the three-man investigation team will spend this weekend going through preparatory paper work. There is a prospect tha ta verdict could be given next week, even if the footplatemen continue their boycott.

Mr Clifford Rose, British Railways Board member for industrial relations and himself a member of the Acas governing council, said last night: "I think the committee can go ahead without Aslef and there could be a chance of solving the issue. But I would welcome it if they (the train drivers) would participate".

Acas officials who are providing a secretariat for the McCarthy inquiry disclosed yesterday that the chairman and his two colleagues, Mr George Doughty, the former engineering white-collar unoin leader, and Mr Ted Choppen, ex-managnig director of Esso, will examine all the documentary evidence on the disputed link between the unpaid 3 per cent wage rise and BR's demand for flexibl erostering

There will be no trains tomorrow as the footplatemen stage their fourth weekend 24-hour strike. Aslef has served notice of similar stoppages on Tuesday and Thursday.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Navigation aids for submarines

Britain's four Polaris missile submarines are being fitted with new navigation systems to improve their reliability and make them cheaper to maintain (Henry Stanhope writes). The decision, which will cost millions of pounds, was taken in part to capitalize on advances in computer technology since the craft were built in the mid-1960s. It was also prompted by the need to make the submarines as reliable as possible after Polaris has been phased out of the United States Navy.

DHSS attacked over ruling

The Department of Health and Social Security was accused yesterday of trying to sabotage a £14,000 local authority campaign to encourage people to claim social security benefits (Pat Healy writes).

The department has ruled that people returning a postcard claim form being distributed by Birmingham social services will be required to make a separate claim to their local benefits office.

Tomato thrower is suspended

Mark Bianco, aged 22, a science student, was suspended from Sussex University until the end of term by an internal disciplinary panel yesterday for throwing tomatoes at Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat MP, during a speech he gave on the campus last November. Disciplinary proceedings against Jillian Allott and Joanne Mullan, both students, were deferred.

29 arrests in N Ireland

Police and troops detained 29 people in Northern Ireland yesterday in a security roundup concentrated in co Armagh and East Tyrone (our Belfast Correspondent writes).

☐ A soldier and two civilians were seriously hurt yesterday when a suspected stolen car was chased by an Army patrol into the grounds of Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital.

Sullom Voe oil strike called off

A planned strike at the Sullom Voe oil terminal, in the Shetland Islands, was called off yesterday morning just before 210 shift workers were due to close the plant.

A mass meeting of the men reversed a decision to strike over a 15 per cent pay claim and accepted shop stewards' advice to continue normal working. BP has agreed to meet Mr Mel Keenan, of the transport workers, for further talks.

Society backs fellow lawyer

The Society of Black Lawyers last night gave their backing to Mr Sibghat Kadri, the lawyer who clashed with Judge Lord Dunboyne in the trial of a young black man acquitted last week of assault on the police during the Brixton riots. After the verdict the judge praised the police for their "manly restraint" in causing only relatively minor injuries to the youth. The judge also criticisez Mr Kadri's conduct of the defence.

Protection for Bulldog

The Football Association was granted a High Court injunction yesterday banning the unlicensed use of its "Bulldog Bobby" World Cup emblem on T-shirts marketed by Robland Graphics, of Heysham, Lancashire. Mr Justice Walton, sitting in London, said of the emblem: "It looks like Dracula on the Chelsea terraces".

Railman charged

Sydney Edwards, a railman, was yesterday remanded on bail until March 8 when he appeared before Tower Bridge magistrates facing charges connected with overtime and time sheets. Mr Edwards, aged 58, of Sandown Road, Norwood, south-east London, is alleged to have committed the offences at London Bridge station.

'Over-generous' universities to lose UGC aid

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Universities which are offering their academic staff redundancy payments and early retirement on terms more generous than those being offered under the scheme by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) stand to lose millions of pounds, for they will not get a penny from the University Grants Committee (UGC) towards any part of their costs.

The committee wrote this week to universities undertaking to reimburse in full the costs incurred over early retirements or redundancies, provided the costs were not more than those that would be incurred under the CVCP scheme, which has just been approved by the Government, and provided that the job loss was "consistent with academic planning".

However, the letter added, "the committee will not consider for grant claims for compensation on terms more generous than those shown above (that is, the CVCP scheme)".

The UGC confirmed yesterday that that means that universities which offer more generous compensation will forfeit all right to reimbursement by the UGC; it does not simply mean, as some universities have thought, that the univerity will have to pay the additonal amount of compensation.

One vice-chancellor suggested that he could get round that difficulty by putting in a claim to the UGC for compensation in accordance with the CVCP scheme, while privately paying his staff an additional amount out of university funds. The UGC said, however: "It is perfectly clear. We would require to be satisfied that a university was paying no more that the CVCP scheme terms."

For universities such as Leeds, which is offering premature retirement to academic staff with up to a year's salary in addition to the lump sum payable under the CVCP scheme, the UGC's decision will mean that they will have to find about £3.5m from their own funds to pay for an estimated 80 to 100 academic redundancies.

If the UGC had paid the basic CVCP rates, Leeds could have expected to get back about £3m of that from the UGC "restructuring" fund.

Mr James Walsh, registrar at Leeds, said: "This is obviously a serious blow. However, we had taken into account the possibility that we would have to find the redundancy money from our own resources. No redundancy contracts have been signed yet with individuals, but we cannot go back on the scheme now."

Letters, page 7

Safety plea after fire kills seven

A coroner called for significant improvements in hospital safety yesterday after hearing how a fire killed seven old men.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, said wards should have smoke detectors, two nurses should be on duty at all times and night duty nurses should not be separated from patients by glass screens.

He had been told that when fire broke out at Warlingham Park psychiatric hospital, at Caterham, Surrey, it went unnoticed by a duty nurse. There were no smoke detectors in the ward; and a second duty nurse was out of the ward on a meal break. A patient's screams were the first indication to staff that there was a fire.

The seven patients, aged between 75 and 85, died from breathing smoke and from shock. A verdict of accidental death was recorded on each.

The inquest was told that a £230,000 fire safety programme had been recommended five months before the fire, but had fallen victim to spending cuts.

Dr Knapman said a cheap smoke detector would be better than nothing. If that was impossible an independent warning system would have to be installed.

Mr Leonard Ani Adjii, who was in charge of the ward at the time, said he was alerted by one of the patients screaming "fire". He said a bed was in the way of the nearest fire alarm so he went to the corridor and telephoned the hospital switchboard.

Outcry as father is sent home

By Lucy Hodges

A man whose wife recently gave birth to a child in Birmingham was sent back to India yesterday because of the Government's new rules on foreign husbands.

The case of Mr and Mrs Jaswant Singh Mann is one of a number being collected by pressure groups to show that new immigration rules are splitting up families. It is one of about 16 cases lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights complaining that the rules discriminate against people on grounds of their race and sex.

A campaign is to be launched soon by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the National Council for Civil Liberties to draw public attention to what they see as a scandal.

Mrs Mann came to live here with her family in 1964, when she was nine months old. She was brought up in Birmingham and returned to India for the first time last year, when her family arranged her marriage.

She was refused permission to bring her husband here because neither she nor her parents were born here, but she returned to Britain because she could not adapt to life in India.

When she arrived she realized she was pregnant. Her husband was allowed to visit her for the birth of their child but Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, made clear that he could not stay.

Catering at Commons in the black after grant

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The House of Commons Catering Department yesterday announced a net trading profit of £265,843 for the financial year 1980-81.

Trading accounts signed by Mr Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham and chairman of the Commons catering sub-committee, and Mr John Smillie, head of the Refreshment Department, declared that a 20 per cent net trading profit on turnover had been achieved in the first year of operation under new administrative arrangements.

Nowhere in the accounts was it mentioned that the Treasury, as part of the new administrative arrangements, had paid over £1,428,815 to the House of Commons Commission, representing the wages bill for the Refreshment Department's permanent staff. Without such direct assistance, the department would undoubtedly have achieved an even bigger deficit than the £767,863 recorded for 1979-80, or the £646,292 of 1978-79.

Mr Smillie said yesterday: "You cannot compare the new structure with the old. You must look at Commons catering as you would look at any industrial canteen which is subsidized."

Revised meal prices have been fixed since July, 1980, and, the report says, in some cases there have been decreases in prices, most notably on afternoon teas on the terrace, which were found to be too expensive.

The bank balance has also been drastically changed by the Treasury intervention.

The Queen's bitter-sweet anniversary

The Queen will today spend the thirtieth anniversary of her accession to the throne quietly with the Duke of Edinburgh at Sandringham House, Norfolk. No festivities are planned. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "It is rather a sad occasion in that this is the day her father died and, naturally, not one for celebration."

The Queen was on tour in East Africa when King George VI died at Sandringham after a day's shooting. The rest of the tour was cancelled and the Queen flew back to London to take on the duties of monarchy.

The Queen, who has been at Sandringham, where the photograph was taken, with her family since shortly after Christmas, is to return to Buckingham Palace on Monday.

Wilson tribute, page 7

Rapist is given 12 life terms

A man who raped six women in a series of attacks over 10 months was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday.

Lionel Newbon, aged 24, forced his victims to submit at knifepoint. He raped a mother while her son aged two clung to her neck, and in another attack his victim, aged 69, climbed to the roof of her house to escape after the offence.

Newbon, an unemployed labourer of no fixed address, appeared at Winchester Crown Court for sentence. The court heard details of the offences last December, when the hearing was adjourned for reports. Newbon admitted six rapes, six robberies and stealing a car.

☐ A man who subjected two teenage girls to serious sexual indignities had one of his convictions for attempted rape quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday because the foreman of the jury at his trial failed to declare how many of the jurors dissented from the majority verdict.

Stephen Pigg, aged 26, unemployed, of Burnmoor Close, Redcar, Cleveland, was jailed for five years at York Crown Court last year on two charges of attempted rape. He was given 12 months, to run concurrently, for unlawful sexual intercourse and indecent assault. His sentence remains the same because he was unanimously convicted on the other charge of attempted rape.

☐ A man who forced young girls to work as prostitutes was jailed for 18 years yesterday at Birmingham Crown Court after being found guilty on four charges of rape. Norris Hall, aged 31, had also been found guilty, with his brother, Gifford Hall, aged 30, on four joint charges of kidnapping. Gifford Hall is to be sentenced on Monday.

Both brothers, of Fleetwood House, Northfield, Birmingham, admitted living on the immoral earnings of prostitutes. Both were cleared on two further joint charges of kidnapping.

☐ A murderer who throttled a girl with her gold crucifix chain and raped her was jailed for life yesterday. Robert Hodgson, aged 30, killed Teresa de Simone, a part-time barmaid, as she got into her car behind a public house in Southampton where she worked.

☐ A detective involved in a controversy over the handling of a rape complaint is being switched to uniform duties (our Northampton Correspondent writes). Mr Brian Scarth, Deputy Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, said yesterday that Det Chief Inspector Michael Kim was being moved from his job as head of Northampton CID to another station as a uniform chief inspector.

☐ A man aged 43 was bound over in the sum of £250 by magistrates at Arundel, West Sussex, yesterday, after police withdrew a charge of indecent assault on a girl aged 13 to spare her giving evidence at a Crown Court trial.

Mr Derek Sangster, chairman of Worthing Community Standards Association, later criticized the decision, which he said he would raise with the Attorney General.

A police spokesman said the police and court believed that because of the relatively minor nature of the alleged assault justice would be best served in the action taken.

Violence on police in Toxteth continues

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, yesterday denied reports that he was about to abandon his community policing experiment in Toxteth. He agreed that officers were having difficulties on their beats but said they were determined to see the new system work.

He was responding to suggestions that violent assaults on policemen in Toxteth this week, particularly on Thursday night, might force him to reconsider his experiment.

Speaking to his police committee, Mr Oxford said: "I want to refute statements attributed to Merseyside police and the Police Federation that the beat plan in Toxteth is going to halt". He said that excited reports of the latest outbreaks of trouble had led to a misrepresentation of the facts, and added: "Reports that we are on the edge of another riot situation are quite erroneous".

Since community policing began three weeks ago, officers on foot patrol have been ambushed and stoned by gangs of youths. There was trouble on three consecutive nights this week.

Six officers were injured on Thursday night and two needed stitches in their wounds.

Two policemen were attacked in Upper Pitt Street by a gang of about forty hooded youths who battered them with iron bars and wooden staves. The constables were kicked and punched on the ground before the youths fled.

In a second incident on Thursday night four policemen were attacked after being surrounded by a gang of youths.

Mr Wally Brown, a member of the city's Community Relations Council, said yesterday that unless local politicians took notice of problems over bad housing and unemployment for black people, street fighting would break out again in Toxteth before Easter.

☐ More than 150 demonstrators jeered as Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, arrived in Merseyside yesterday (the Press Association reports).

☐ Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday called on entertainers and businessman in Liverpool to bring life back to the city by holding regular festivals in the troubled areas.

☐ Francis Amos, aged 22, of Brixton, south London, who took part in riots there last April and was arrested after being identified when his photograph appeared in newspapers, was jailed for 12 months at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for causing £2,000 damage to a police coach and causing bodily harm to the driver.

Man in the news

'Puppet' master with the Midas touch

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Mr David Young, the new chairman-designate of the Manpower Services Commission, leaves Britain for a 12-day visit to Japan today, happy to escape the political backlash which greeted his unexpected appointment by Mr Norman Tebbitt, Secretary of State for Employment, on Thursday.

Mr Eric Varley, the shadow Employment Secretary, yesterday summed up the critics' fears when he remarked in a BBC radio interview that Mr Young's appointment was blatantly political. "Obviously, the Government have got very tired of the scathing reports from the MSC and they probably want to turn it into Mr Tebbit's puppet", Mr Varley said.

Mr Young, who was introduced into Whitehall backroom service by Sir Keith Joseph, in 1979, could take some time to recover from the political impression that he is a close ally of the Conservative right wing.

A successful businessman, he has given cash and time to the Centre for Policy Studies, which Sir Keith and Mrs Margaret Thatcher created as their alternative policy think-tank after the October 1974 election.

Mr Young commented yesterday: "I am a free market man. In the business and commercial world I believe that the private sector does best." But he insisted that he was no right-winger.

A long-term association with the World ORT Union, the organization for rehabilitation through training which was founded by Russian Jews in Odessa a hundred years ago and now trains 120,000 students in basic skills in 22 countries, could be cited as evidence of his concern for others.

Mr David Young: A star is born?

But Mr Young said yesterday that his main credo was value for money, and he would be applying that to the £1,000m which the commission has been allocated for training. "I am certainly not going to close down the MSC. The commission's role is to help the country's industrial recovery", he said.

Mr Young's visit to Japan, sponsored by the Department of Industry, where he now serves as a special adviser to the Secretary of State, will give him an opportunity to learn the Japanese lesson in both manufacturing and training. He will also be scouting for possible further inward investment from Japan, after his personal coup last year in getting Sanyo to take over a Phillips factory which was closing in Lowestoft.

Mr Young said yesterday: "I have had experience of the outside world and I have worked in Whitehall for two and a half years. I have no prejudices against the unions, I have no prejudices against management or civil servants. I just hope that after all this fuss dies down I shall be able to get on with the job."

The political suspicion, however, will take time to die down on both sides of the political divide. For there are Conservatives too who feel that there is an important political significance in Mr Young's appointment.

Mr Tebbit said in a Commons reply last December that he would like the commission to consider a hive-off of the Professional and Executive Recruitment Service. In that context it is known that Mr Young played a role in the plans for turning Cable and Wireless over to private enterprise.

But there are many colleagues who believe that Mr Young will assert his independence in the new job.

A person who has worked closely with him said last night that his personality would help him to weld a close cooperation with the unions, an essential ingredient for any concerted training programme. "A star is born. He is the kind of person who can not help making money; he has the Midas touch. He is very well organized, he is warm, he does not shout, he does not throw his weight about. He listens. But he is very keen on getting that value for money."

Leading article, Page 7

Some police chiefs second rate, Tory says

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

A Conservative MP said last night that some chief constables were second rate and not up to the job they had been given.

Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds and an adviser to the Police Federation, told a constituency party meeting that the Home Secretary needed to give his own Whitehall police department a short, sharp shock, and that the training of police chief officers was badly in need of reform.

There were many able chief constables, but "there are also second-raters—men who cannot stand criticism; who surround themselves with toadies; who do not read enough; whose temperament and training no longer fit them to carry the heavy duties or to handle the social complexities of late twentieth-century Britain."

It is known at Westminster that Mr Whitelaw has expressed doubts about the ability of some chief constables to cope with crises.

Mr Griffiths said that Whitehall and Westminster were beginning to recognize that only the resourcefulness, breadth of vision, and coolness under pressure of a score or more urban chief constables rested the tranquillity of the inner cities and, ultimately, the security of the state itself against terrorism.

Of the Home Office police department, he said it had too often shown itself to be sluggish, indecisive, and out of touch with the realities of policing violence.

☐ Conservatives are among members of both Houses opposing Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, by seeking to change the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, now in committee, with the aim of further reducing the time served by prisoners (Peter Evans writes).

Mr Whitelaw originally considered automatic parole for shorter sentence prisoners, but changed his mind. Instead the Bill would introduce partly suspended sentences.

Mr Whitelaw's change of heart after a tough reception for his policies at the Conservatives' annual conference alarmed many in the prison service.

Now the Parliamentary All Party Penal Affairs Group, which has about thirty Conservatives among its 80 members, is seeking to change the Bill.

COPYRIGHT JUDGMENT DELAYED

Mr Basil Ashmore, a stage director, will have to wait to hear the result of his copyright damages action against Mr William Douglas-Home alleging that the playwright plagiarized his work. Judge Mervyn Davies, QC, in the High Court yesterday said judgment on the case would be given at a later date.

Mr Ashmore, of Wisbourne House, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, had asked for orders preventing Mr Douglas Home, the Lyric Theatre Co Ltd, Mr Thomas Henry, a theatrical producer, Mr John Gale and Linden Productions Ltd from infringing his copyright in material used in Mr Douglas Home's play, *The Kingfisher*.

All the defendants denied breach of copyright. Mr Douglas-Home counter-claimed damages alleging libel in a letter written by Mr Ashmore in 1977 to Mr David Grant, then manager of *The Kingfisher*. Mr Ashmore denied libel and pledged justification.

Science report

Armadillo helps in war on leprosy

By Nicholas Timmins

Research on a vaccine to prevent leprosy, which still afflicts more than 11 million people in Africa, Asia and South America, has led to hopes that it may produce an important improvement in the treatment of the disease as well.

Although routine use of the vaccine is still some years away—the preliminary human trials will start this year—its use in Venezuela, for the treatment of patients with the progressive lepromatous form of the disease has produced dramatic results.

Dr Jacinto Convit, a member of the World Health Organization's IMMLEP programme, which is developing the vaccine, has used it to treat more than 300 patients with this, the most serious form of leprosy. The tuberculoid form responds well to drugs and can be self-limiting, but the body's immunological defence system is largely ineffective in the lepromatous form, the response to the standard drug is poor, and treatment is difficult.

The vaccine, however, appears to give the immunological system a jolt, so that the body's own defence system starts functioning again, killing off the leprosy bacillae that cause the disease and halting its progress.

Dr Richard Rees, a bacteriologist at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London, and a member of the WHO programme, says: "The results are looking unbelievably good.

"At present there are only preliminary data. How long the effect will last is not clear because few patients have been followed for long, but the initial impact is considerable. If the effects last and the treatment does not have to be repeated all the time, this is going to be very important for the treatment of leprosy."

A WHO study group is to visit Caracas in April to examine Dr Convit's results and make recommendations for further studies. Improvements in the treatment of leprosy are badly needed. The disease has become increasingly resistant to Dapsone, which is cheap, at about 50p for a year's treatment, but increasingly ineffective. Other drugs are more expensive and more toxic, and resistance to some of them is becoming apparent.

Leprosy research has long been hampered by scientists' inability to grow the leprosy mycobacterium in the laboratory. The discovery in the 1970s that the nine-banded armadillo is susceptible to the disease provided regular supplies of the bacillae from which the vaccine is prepared.

The first human studies of the vaccine will start this year on healthy volunteers in Britain, Norway and the United States. A skin conversion test, similar to that used for tuberculosis, will measure its effectiveness.

The need to prove the vaccine's long-term safety means it will be some years before it is used as a preventive measure. Its use on those already infected will, however, become common much more quickly if Dr Convit's results are confirmed and lasting, Dr Rees said.

MPs TO ACT IN CUSTODY DELAY CASE

From Our Correspondent
Wolverhampton

A mentally subnormal young woman whose six months in custody awaiting sentence was called a "public scandal" by a judge was found a place in a secure hospital yesterday, but only for three months.

Julie Garratt, of Chester Road, Netherton, West Midlands, who was stated to have an IQ of 45, will stay at a hospital in Essex while her plight is discussed by MPs who are demanding an inquiry.

She has been in custody since last August because a bed could not be found for her in a hospital in the West Midlands. Last month Judge Chetwynd-Talbot at Wolverhampton Crown Court described the state of affairs as "wicked".

The court was told yesterday by Mr Ralph Lewis, for Garratt, that letters about her had been sent to 40 MPs as well as to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the Minister of Health.

Garratt was convicted on three charges of assault but has had to remain in custody awaiting sentence because the Dudley Area Health Authority could not find a place for her in a secure hospital.

The judge, who said he wanted something done "in the interests of humanity", remanded her on bail for three months.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 40; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 590 mils; Denmark Dkr 11; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 7.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 80; Holland Gl 3.25; Iran Rl 135; Iraq LD 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1800; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon Ll 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 33; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 7.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 90; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $5.00; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria L$5.50; Tunisia Din 0.600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.

هكذا من الأصل

'The day Freddie Laker stops flying aeroplanes, the fares will go up and up...'

Travel now

Operators ready for payouts as flights switch

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Package holiday tour operators using Laker flights and travel agents selling Laker package holidays scrambled yesterday to cope with the immediate problems thrown up by the Laker collapse. However, longer-term, higher price transatlantic holidays are foreseen.

Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest tour operator, is footing the bill for switching 13 of their holidaymakers to a British Airways flight today in club class after their Laker flight to Montego Bay, Jamaica, via Miami, was halted at Manchester yesterday as it was about to take off.

Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain, was preparing if necessary to pay out substantial sums under its 24-hour money back guarantee to those who had booked package holidays through Cooks from Laker's package holiday subsidiaries, Laker Air Travel and the North West-based Arrowsmith.

Thomson was last night still making alternative arrangements for other groups due out this weekend on Laker flights from Manchester, Gatwick and Prestwick to United States and Caribbean destinations. With the under-used capacity now existing on the North Atlantic services, once the immediate difficulties are over, there should be few problems in finding seats with other airlines.

Holidaymakers who had booked Laker package tours will get their money back under bonding arrangements within the travel industry. This is not an immediate payment, for administrative reasons, but some other travel agents in addition to Cooks, give no-strings guarantees.

If the Receiver shuts down Laker package holidays, the package operators and agents will also offer alternative holidays.

Cosmos, another big tour operator, said last night it did not anticipate great difficulties in switching to other airlines to cope with Laker-booked travellers on its own package holidays. It is also increasing its allocation of beds in hotels at destinations used by the Laker holidays subsidiaries.

There are about 4,500 holiday makers abroad on Laker package holidays. The bonding arrangements administered by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) allow for immediate payments, if necessary, for package holiday customers likely to be stranded. But there were fears in the industry last night that some hoteliers abroad might mistakenly turn holidaymakers out if money was owed to the hotel.

Return tickets issued by Laker for its package holidays are likely to be honoured by other airlines. British Caledonian and British Airways last night were among several airlines offering to re-patriate, where possible, passengers stranded with Laker scheduled service tickets.

Travellers with Laker tickets on scheduled flights are not covered by the package holiday bonding arrangements. The Laker scheduled flights are between the United Kingdom and four United States destinations: New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Tampa. Anyone who has paid a deposit or the total cost of a ticket still not used, effectively becomes an unsecured creditor of Laker.

There was speculation last night whether there could be recompense under the Air Travel Reserve Fund (Amendment) Bill, now passing through Parliament. This is intended to extend compensation to scheduled passengers in addition to package holiday passengers when an airline goes into liquidation.

However this would mean allowing for retrospective payment as was done when a fund was set up to deal with the aftermath of the Court Line financial crash.

If Laker's transatlantic operations were scrapped there would, ostensibly be some rich pickings for other airlines. Laker has 17 per cent of the market on the London-New York route; 30 per cent of London-Los Angeles; and 23 per cent of London-Miami. However, higher prices could shrink these markets, removing at least some of the advantages for the remaining airlines.

Laker's package holiday operations have about 9 per cent of the summer market of around five million holidays altogether and rather more of the smaller winter holidays market of just over one million holidays.

At Laker's Gatwick headquarters yesterday, no one could say how many return ticket holders were stranded in the United States. Most Skytrain passengers fly on one-way tickets.

A spokesman for Laker Airways in New York said last night that United Kingdom passengers in the United States would be accommodated on other airlines without further cost. It would take about a fortnight to repatriate all those with reservations.

The airline buccaneer

Dauntless champion of the cut-price traveller

By Alan Hamilton

Sir Freddie Laker was in expansively confident mood. It was May 1979 and he was in Toulouse, showing visitors over the Airbus Industrie production line where the first of his order for 10 wide-bodied jets was taking shape.

When, an eager journalist in the party inquired, did Sir Freddie plan to make his first commercial flight in it?

"Let's see", the recently knighted Sir Freddie mused, "I'd like to spend Christmas on my yacht in Majorca, so let's say we'll fly down the Saturday before Christmas, 1980. We'll take off at half past ten in the morning if that suits my pilot, and you're all invited. Is that all right with you?" he asked of the assembled Airbus executives, who nodded meekly.

The characteristically jovial off-the-cuff statement was doubly significant. By naming a date Sir Freddie had committed the makers to delivering his first Airbus three weeks early, and by ordering the fleet in the first place he was taking what was to prove one of the few bad business decisions of his life.

Sir Freddie was raised in properly humble surroundings in Canterbury; his father, a merchant seaman, deserted the family when the only child was eight, and his mother had to turn to the unlikely business of scrap dealing to make a living. Laker junior was a dullard at school, provoking laughter when he gave his life's ambition as "to be a millionaire".

His blinding vision of the future, he says, came when he saw at one time the airship Hindenburg and an Imperial Airways Handley Page flying together in the Kent sky; from that moment his life and his fortune were to be aircraft. He found work in the Short Brothers aircraft factory at Rochester, where he was soon turning his first profit by fetching his workmates 1d cans of tea, having negotiated favourable bulk rates with the canteen girl.

Wartime experience as a ferry pilot gained him flying and engineering qualifications, giving him an intimate knowledge of aircraft that has stood him in good stead ever since.

He had a short spell in the newly created British European Airways immediately after the war, but the bureaucracy was too constricting for a man of Sir Freddie's stamp. With his own and his mother's savings he bought some government-surplus trucks and sold them. With the profits he bought a cherry orchard and sold it. With those profits he bought radio spares and sold them.

The Berlin airlift was a godsend to him and many other former wartime aircrew members who were finding it hard to make a living in postwar civilian austerity. Sir Freddie happened to be more successful than most; then, as years later, his secret was to venture where more cautious businessmen feared to tread.

A chance meeting with an old friend in a public house in Whitehall brought him a £38,000 loan with which he bought BOAC's entire fleet of 12 Halifax bombers converted to passenger use. By the time the Berlin airlift was over he was the owner of 100 redundant wartime aircraft and 6,000 spare engines.

He melted them down and sold the lot to a maker of aluminium saucepans; with those profits he bought his first of many Rolls-Royces.

He became managing director of British United Airways, in which role he took on the state air corporations. But Sir Freddie has never been happy as anyone else's employee.

He left BUA in 1965; friends say that it was the frustration of spending much of his working day negotiating with trade unions, rather than running an airline, that drove him out. Sir Freddie and the unions have never had much time for each other.

Another, rarely mentioned factor, is that about that time his son Kevin was killed in the MG sports car his father had given him for his seventeenth birthday, and which he says he had "doctored" so that it was not capable of high speeds.

He founded Laker in 1966, and did well in the burgeoning package holiday business, but it was not until 1971 that he announced Skytrain and began the long battle against the British and American governments, and what he saw as the artificially high prices of transatlantic air tickets. He found an ally in Lord Boyd-Carpenter, former Tory minister and new head of the Civil Aviation Authority, who must have seen in Sir Freddie the embodiment of the Heath vision of an enterprising capitalist.

His unashamedly daredevil approach to business, his talent for flying right up to the legal limits of accepted practice, not so much to break the sound barrier as to extend it, have brought him much wealth, including a spacious house in Sussex, a 1,000-acre farm in Surrey, a stud farm of 24 thoroughbreds at Epsom, and an 85-ton yacht Tutinella.

His personal life has been less successful. He has been married three times; his present wife, Patricia, recently won an injunction in a court in Florida forbidding Sir Freddie from taking away their son aged three. The couple's first child died at birth.

As recently as last month, with sterling falling against the dollar, trouble mounting over repayments for his DC10s and Airbuses, and the clouds gathering over his airline, he was typically defiant. "The day Freddie Laker stops flying aeroplanes", he told a reporter, "the fares will go up and up".

Laker and Skytrain—the image that, with his low fares, endeared him to the travelling public

Fares now

Going up, but not by much–yet

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

Laker's collapse means that Atlantic air fares will go up 15 per cent in March and another 7½ per cent in May on several routes. Details of the increases were disclosed in *The Times* on Monday with the reservation that they might not happen—because of Laker.

Laker was not a member of IATA, which set the new fares—the whole idea of it was anathema to him—and so long as he was around there was always a chance of his maverick refusal to go along with them, even though he needed them more than anyone. Others would then have refused, too.

But, in view of yesterday's events, presumably if Laker had lasted until March his fares would have had to go up. Perhaps that prospect was an influential factor in the timing of the announcement. It was a matter of fierce pride to him to be the great price-cutter, the consumers' champion.

It was that pride which last autumn made him refuse the blandishments of banks and government departments for a fare rise then. Had he done so, PanAm would not have needed to cut their fares in November and so "put the boot in".

Having come down, fares will stay comparatively low, in my view, at least for the next three years while substantial over-capacity is over-hanging the market. Laker may have been an ardent practitioner of de-regulation, but he did not invent it.

Competition should see to it that Atlantic fares never return to excessive levels, even in the longer term. The learning experience of the Atlantic airlines over the last five years should also ensure fewer fits and starts—in other words, a more controlled competition.

Pan Am's chairman, Mr Ed Acker, ensured this when he warned last autumn that in future there would be no comfortable spots from which competitors could undercut his company. Price cuts would be matched. Thus Air Florida, another arch-price-cutter formerly headed by Mr Acker, said yesterday: "From now on we know that if we stay down others will come down too. While if we go up, everyone will go up."

Atlantic air fares will go up—they had to after £250m combined losses last year; but it will not be by much.

Proposed fare changes London—New York

One way	Current	New fare from March	% Change
First	£917	£946	+ 3
Business			
(Winter)	£315	315	no
(Summer)	363	363	change
Economy			
(Winter)	£124	143	up 15
(Shoulder)	153	178	
(Summer)	169	203	up 20
Standby			
(Winter)	£90	99	up 10
(Shoulder)	113	129	up 10
(Summer)	124	136	up 10
Return Super Apex			
(Winter)	£223	257	up 15
(Shoulder)	280	322	up 15
(Summer)	314	362	up 15

Countdown to collapse

Why the banks acted

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

By a strange twist of fate, the decision finally to call in the receiver to Sir Freddie Laker's cut-price airline has come in the very week when agreement on a rescue package seemed closer than ever.

On Monday night Sir Freddie's bankers and advisers were increasingly confident that the negotiations could be tied up within a week or so, and the matter then be handed over to the lawyers to draw up the final documents. Next day Sir Freddie was telling the world that he was flying high and his financial problems were over.

His bankers reacted with predictable caution, describing his comments as premature. But it was not until later in the week that the bad news emerged which finally sunk Laker.

New figures showing worse-than-expected ticket sales, combined with disappointing forecasts for cash flow in the months ahead, were the final straw. The whole basis of the rescue package worked out over six months of intense negotiations, involving the Bank of England and Laker's own advisers Samuel Montagu, depended on sufficient cash being available for Laker to keep trading during the difficult winter months.

The gloomy news on Laker's trading position which surfaced this week meant that no one could be confident that Laker would be able to go on paying his bills, even though there had been considerable progress on sorting out the fundamental balance sheet problems.

It was this shortage of cash which precipitated the appointment of accountants Ernst and Whinney as receivers yesterday morning. The previous day, Thursday, Laker's advisers Samuel Montagu had further talks with the Civil Aviation Authority, the body which licenses British airlines and acts as custodian of the public interest. The CAA had been kept closely in touch with developments and was happy to continue Laker's licence if the banks believed the airline could survive both in the months ahead and through the summer.

At the back of everyone's mind, however, was the demise of Courtline in 1974, when passengers were left stranded throughout the world. It was agreed that given the latest developments the CAA could not risk allowing Laker to continue trading—a decision with which Sir Freddie himself strongly disagreed. However, City sources believe Laker probably needed a further £8m to £10m to see him through to the summer, and even then it is uncertain whether the CAA would have been happy to continue the licence.

Even late on Thursday the irrepressible Sir Freddie was still trying to save his airline. He was closeted till the early hours of Friday in the Gatwick Hilton with his advisers and Mr Harry Goodman of the holiday firm Intasun in a last-ditch rescue attempt. But although Intasun may try to buy Laker's holiday business from the receiver, any thought of rescuing Laker seems to have evaporated after seeing the sums involved.

Estimates of Laker's losses for the year to the end of March run as high as £15m to £20m, and the firm survived only as long as it did because of the support from Clydesdale Bank, which steadily increased its overdraft from last September onwards. The framework of the package to restructure Laker's finances would have involved a cash injection from McDonnell Douglas.

Before Christmas McDonnell was proposing a £5m capital injection, but this was whittled down to a £4m loan. In addition McDonnell was prepared to convert part of a $46m loan guarantee into preference shares.

The other part of the package involved Laker agreeing to sell the three A-300 airbuses it bought in January 1981 with the £70m loan from the 13-bank syndicate led by Midland.

The collapse of Laker is embarrassing for many. The Bank of England has been closely involved in negotiations through the person of Mr David Walker, head of the Bank's industrial finance activities. Indeed the Prime Minister—a great admirer of Sir Freddie—is believed to have had direct contact with the Governor of the Bank, Mr Gordon Richardson, on the Laker issue.

Meanwhile the Midland Bank group, which owns both Samuel Montagu and the Clydesdale Bank, may lose millions. Midland's share in its own syndicate is £8.5m, which may well be recovered. However, Clydesdale, on top of its overdraft to Laker, guaranteed a £5m bond to the Civil Aviation Authority to safeguard Laker holidaymakers. City sources believe Clydesdale could lose £6m to £9m.

What Laker owes the banks

	Term loans	Overdraft
Midland Bank syndicate	£70m	—
Eximbank syndicate	£121m	—
Japanese bank syndicate	£30m	—
Clydesdale Bank	—	£9m
Total	£230m	

Flightpath for Laker

1948

Laker borrows £38,000 to buy 12 ex BOAC Halton planes. The Berlin airlift sets him on his way to 10 years of independent charter operation, including channel air ferries.

1960

Civil Aviation Act ends state monopoly of scheduled passenger services. British United Airways, with Laker in a key role, attempts to take on BEA and BOAC.

1965

Laker leaves BUA to form his own airline, "A contract carrier to the package holiday trade and a personalised airline".

1971

Laker announces Skytrain and orders new wide-bodied DC10s to begin the battle against the British and US governments for cheap transatlantic air fares.

1973

First Laker DC10 flies to Majorca. Oil prices and intense competition leads to collapse of Court Line package holiday business.

1974

Laker calls Department of Trade officials opposed to Skytrain "bums and gangsters". Lord Denning backs Skytrain.

1975

Mrs Thatcher chooses Laker to fly, as Opposition leader, on first visit to North America.

1977

After long United States battle President Carter gives Skytrain the go ahead.

1979

Civil Aviation Authority grounds all DC10s after Chicago air crash. Laker estimates the cost to him at £13m.

1980

Plans for European Skytrain blocked by United Kingdom Government.

1981

Laker takes delivery of first of 10 proposed European Airbuses. Trouble over £130m loan repayments for DC10s and Airbuses as sterling falls against the dollar.

1982

Loans crisis ends in collapse.

Transatlantic reaction

Downfall dismays US

By Staff Reporters

Sir Freddie Laker received cold comfort yesterday from Opposition spokesmen and from the trade unions whose presence in Laker Airways he consistently fought, but in the United States sadness and shock were expressed.

Mr Peter Shore, who as Secretary of State for Trade in 1976 attempted to prevent Skytrain taking off, said that his fear all along was that Skytrain would lead to "cut-throat, uneconomic competition" and that the bubble would burst.

"As long as you have scheduled air services", he said on the BBC's *World at One* programme, "you have got to have some regulation of prices, otherwise the profitable routes will simply be creamed off at profitable times and other services will become totally unprofitable and will be withdrawn". He saw an immense symbolism in Sir Freddie's demise. "He was meant to be a symbol of successful, Thatcherite free enterprise Britain. He has now gone down and what has brought him down is the failure and recession and the slump that Mrs Thatcher's policies have engendered".

The trade unions, who fought a series of unsuccessful battles for recognition with Sir Freddie, said the crash was no surprise.

Mr Russell Miller, of the white-collar Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), which has about 14 members in Laker, said: "We see the books of other companies in this very competitive field and they are going very close to the wind. If Laker could undercut them with his capital expenditure as well it was obvious that he was sailing much too close." Not much could be done for the staff, he said, most of whom were formed into a trade association at Sir Freddie's encouragement, "but that will be no good for them now. They will not have the resources. I am certain that many, many of them will be regretting it today."

Criticism of Sir Freddie came from the staff association he helped to set up to keep unions out of his company. Alison Fravolini, vice-president of the association, said the first she heard of the crash was through the media.

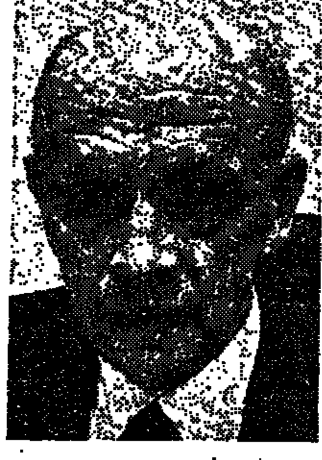
"It is very difficult to work for a folk hero. He is a buccaneer, but from our point of view we have compulsory overtime, no pension scheme, no health plan and our junior cabin crew have found themselves eligible and in receipt in supplementary benefit for the low paid. This is the thing that the general public does not know about."

None the less, Sir Freddie had generated the loyalty that made the staff stick with him. "We have not had a pay rise in four years and the last time he came to see us was to ask us to sacrifice two 5 per cent threshold payments. When the going was good we have had not very much from Laker Airways."

Mrs Evelyn Hayward, New York representative of Laker Airways, said that Sir Freddie was there until Wednesday night making commercials for television and radio. "I saw the rushes for one, with Sir Freddie talking to passengers and showing them the different types of services, and it was really good".

Mr Norman Ciment, Mayor of Miami Beach, said he was shocked and deeply saddened at the news. "No one will ever realize quite how much Sir Freddie did for our area in the past few years. He literally kept the Miami Beach economy alivt", he said.

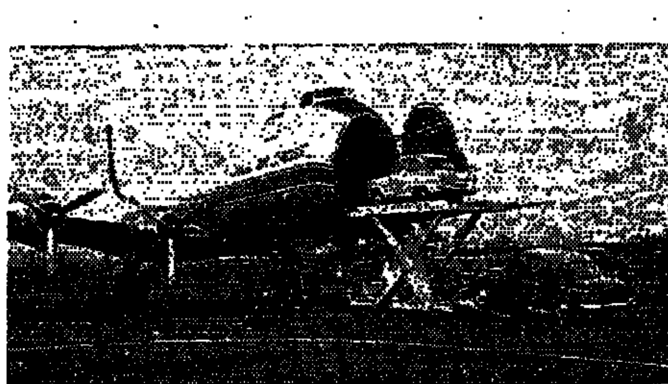
Lady Laker, Sir Freddie's estranged wife, said last night that she was confident he would bounce back. "He has a lot of other interests, his farm and his stud and stocks. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will survive", she said.



Mr Bill Mackey, who has been appointed Receiver of Laker, has headed the accountants Ernst and Whinney's insolvency department for [illegible] years. He is a former chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants insolvency sub committee and has acted as Receiver for the Lyon Group and the Bahamian Oil Refinery in Freeport in the Bahamas.

Another partner of Ernst and Whinney, Mr Nigel Hamilton, who is joint Receiver with Mr Mackey, visited Gatwick yesterday and saw Laker staff there.

Aircraft along the Laker air-lanes: above, the Halton (converted RAF Halifax), 1947



The Carvair, converted DC4 by Aviation Traders, Laker's Southend engineers, for cross-Channel traffic

The BAC-111—Laker bought it for BUA before he went independent

BAC-111 in Laker colours: he also bought VC-10s

The Skytrain DC10 (top): and Laker's airbus

PARLIAMENT Feb 5 1981

British Airways will be sold in spite of Laker's downfall

AVIATION

The changing rate of the pound for the dollar after he had taken out loans and the world-wide recession in air travel had caused the deterioration in Sir Freddie Laker's traffic figures, Mr Iain Sproat, Under Secretary of State for Trade said during exchanges following a statement on the collapse of Laker Airways.

Mr Clinton Davis (Hackney Central, Lab) a former junior minister for aviation matters, had asked the minister to look again at the question of an inquiry being held under section 165 of the Companies Act "having regard to the totally reckless statement made only two days previously by Sir Freddie Laker by which passengers, creditors and others might well have been misled. Mr Sproat said that he would do so.

The Minister also added that British Caledonian, Pan Am and Florida Airlines had offered to take home stranded Laker passengers.

Mr Sproat said that in the event that the receiver decides to cease operating flights passengers who have paid for bookings for a package holiday would be protected on the first instance by the bond (guaranteed by the bank) which Laker's tour operating companies provide as a condition of their Air Travel Organisers' licences. This bond would be immediately available to enable alternative arrangements to be made to bring home people who are already abroad.

Those who had booked but not yet travelled could seek compensation from the bond, and if it proved insufficient to meet all legitimate claims, from the Air Travel Reserve Fund.

These arrangements would not cover those travelling on Skytrain scheduled services. If Laker services were no longer operating they would have to travel by alternative means. If they had unused tickets they would be in the position of unsecured creditors, unless they could exchange them for valid tickets issued by another airline.

I understand that the receiver is exploring every possibility of minimizing the inconvenience suffered by passengers, and it will become clearer when he has had a little more time how this can be done. Travellers affected should therefore watch for further information in the media.

Mr Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Batley and Morley, Lab): Can we get their money back, that funds are adequate and that refunds will be made quickly so individuals and families can make alternative holiday arrangements?

The position regarding passengers booked on scheduled services is not clear. How many are there and what can be done?

Would the minister consider it appropriate to appoint an inspector under the powers he has under the Companies Act in order to examine the affairs of recent months?

What does he intend to do about route licences, how many are involved and how are the interests of British Airways and our commercial interests to be safeguarded?

Does this not show there is an urgent need to review British aviation policy by the Government. The failure to have any policy makes me feel the answers I received a few days ago to my questions about the North Atlantic Route, were a sham then and are now. Will the minister go away, learn his lesson and bring back to the House a proper review of events and a policy? (Labour cheers)

Mr Sproat: We share his concern about passengers. Funds certainly will be adequate from the bonding arrangement and from the Air Travel Reserve Fund. The total available from those two is over £23m. That will certainly cover those on charter holiday packages.

As for how many schedule possengers are involved, we understand it is of the nature of 5,000 on each side of the Atlantic. There are 2,600 employees and certainly everything will be done to safeguard them. So far we have no evidence that an inquiry by any department, particulary the Department of Trade, under Section 165 of the Companies Act, 1948, would be justified. If the receiver finds any reason to seek one he will doubtless inform us.

If the company should subsequently go into liquidation it will be the duty of the liquidator to carry out a full investigation of the circumstances and report if he has any reason to believe any impropriety has occured.

As for route licences, at the European end of it is affected Laker Airways had a kind of blanket charter, at the moment running charter flights into five countries of Europe and two in North Africa — Morocco and Tunisia.

In the United States he was running services to New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Tampa and on these specific licences, the appropriate aviation authority on both sides of the Atlantic — on this side the Civil Aviation Authority — will look at them and see what can be done, and who may apply the licences if Laker Airways give them up.

We remain convinced that we should strive for a better deal for the consumer, that we should persue our policy of competition and seek stability for airlines. That has been and will continue to be our policy.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: This pathetic statement by a junior minister will not satisfy us. We have all been concious of the fact that Sir Freddy Laker and his company were the jewel in the crown of the free market economic theories of this Government.

Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab): And the Liberals.

Mr Steel: No, not the Liberals... and they have become the latest nails in the coffin of those theories.

Does the Government still believe the CAA has a duty to balance the needs of the consumer to get competitive air fares, the interests of the taxpayer in the support of British Airways, and interests of other airlines?

When are we going to get a statement on aviation policy?

Mr Sproat: One of the results of our policy in the North Atlantic last year was that three British airlines flying the North Atlantic, carried more passengers and out-earned nine American airlines. That is a tremendous achievement.

It is precisely that balance between stability for the airlines and benefit for the consumer that we intend to continue to pursue.

Mr Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford, C): Free enterprise is unlikely to be able to compete fairly with state subsidised public corporations in conditions of world recession. It is ironic that British Airways, made a loss of £120m last year and is still flying whereas Laker Airways, with half that debt, is in receivership.

Has there been any response from other British carriers, like BA and British Caledonian, in offering to help Laker passengers?

Mr Sproat: Sir Freddie is a great man who has done wonderful things for passengers. It is and it will remain this Government's firm policy to privatize BA as soon as practicable. (Labour interruptions and protests.)

BA's pre-tax loss was *£141m* last year. We have to look closely at how taxpayers' money is being used to fund these nationalized industries.

Having said that, I spoke to Sir John King, the BA chairman, this morning, and to the British Caledonian chairman, Mr Adam Thompson. Both made generous

SPROAT: Enough funds for passengers

statements on how they were going to help any stranded passengers. Mr Thompson said he would fly passengers back free to the UK if necessary. This shows what free enterprise will do.

Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab): Many of us would be horrified by Mr Sproat's threat to privatize BA. It would then, presumably, go down in the same way as Freddie Laker has gone, down.

Does the minister not feel any sense of responsibility? If Laker Airways was, the prime example of successful private enterprize, why has the Government raised not a finger to save it to preserve the jobs of 2,600 workers and help customers?

Mr Sproat: It has been our policy to privatize BA for a long time. Last year rivate airlines overall in this country made an overall profit. On helping Sir Freddy Laker, no formal approach was made by officials of Laker Airways to my department and we would not consider it appropriate to intervene.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Will he extend discussions beyond British airlines to those in competition with Laker across the Atlantic to bale out passengers who become stranded? What is the position of small travel agents who may have sold advance tickets and may well face suits from stranded passengers?

Mr Sproat: I will certainly look at the problem of the small travel agents.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing, North, C) said Sir Freddie Laker had been undermined by the fact that state airlines brought their high fares down to the levels he set and they were paid for by state subsidies. This was a disgrace. The taxpayers had paid for their own demise.

Mr Sproat: It is true that the taxpayer is having to pay vast amounts *of money to sustain* British Airways at the present time. (Labour interruptions.) Perhaps £141m last year will convince Labour MPs that they have a problem.

Certainly, we intend to continue with our plans to privatize British Airways as soon as possible.

Inquiries in public

PLANNING

The Planning Inquiries (Attendance of Public Bill) providing that evidence at planning inquiries must be heard in public was read a second time.

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said there might be exceptional circumstances in which inquiries were best held in private, for instance when defence, security or commercial interests were involved, and such matters could form the basis of amendments during the committee stage of the Bill.

Mr Michael Hamilton (Salisbury, C), the sponsor, recalled events at Salisbury 15 years ago when what was supposed to be a public inquiry took place behind closed doors. That was disturbing. In outlining his campaign he said he had had staunch allies in his fight including *The Times* which had published letters on the issue and a leading article stating that openness was essential for public confidence in planning inquiries.

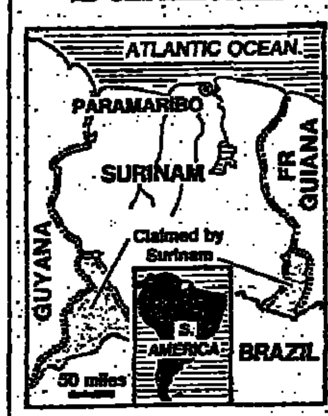
Debate on the Death Grant (Increase) Bill, sponsored by Mr Ernest Ross (Dundee, West, Lab) was adjourned after Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, said that once the Government's review of the death grant was complete either he or the Secretary of State (Mr Norman Fowler) would make a statement.

Correction

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said 55 per cent of black youth in Brixton was unemployed, not 65 per cent as stated in yesterday's Parliamentary report.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Civilians ousted in Surinam



Paramaribo. — Surinam's National Military Council announce that it had reassumed direct rule, after the resignation of President Henck Chin A Sen and his cabinet.

The Council said that the move followed "policy disagreements", but it gave no details.

The Council has ruled the former Dutch colony, on the north coast of South America, since seizing power in February, 1980. Dr Chin A Sen's mainly civilian Government was installed with the support of the army in August of that year, but the Council continued to excercise control over the country.

A four-man military committee has taken over the day-to-day administration. It is headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Deysi Bouterse, the Army Commander and chairman of the National Military Council. Colonel Bouterse has said that a new civilian government will be formed "as soon as possible".

Report on May case 'imminent'

Camerino, Italy.— A British doctor will perform a mew post-mortem examination on the remains of Mrs Jeanette May and her Italian friend, Signora Gabriella Guerin, to determine the cause of the two womens' deaths.

Dr Keith Simpson, a Home Office pathologist, expects to make the results public over the weekend, according to the Italian police. They have denied Italian press reports that the women might have been strangled. Spots of blood found on Mrs May's neck vertebrae could have been caused by the decompo*sition of the bodies or by* mud, the police said.

Ugandan MP shot dead

Nairobi. — Gunmen in Kampala have shot dead Mr George Bamuturaki, a leading opposition MP, and Mr Z. Okao, general manager of Uganda's National Housing and Construction Corporation.

At least six others were injured when the gunmen opened fire on a group sitting outside a bar in the Kamoja district, two miles from the city centre. Mr Bamuturaki was the Democratic Party's shadow minister of lands, minerals and water resources.

Truman's Oval Office bugged

Washington.—Harry Truman has joined Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon as a President believed to have tape recorded conversations in the Oval House, it has been claimed.

Dr Benedict Zobrist, director of the Truman Library, said there were 10 tapes believed to have been in the Oval Office during Truman's time but not necessarily with his consent. "They are really unintelligible," he said.

Mugabe holds merger talks

Salisbury. — Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, accompanied by senior aides, had three hours of talks which centred on the possibility of merging Zimbabwe's two main political parties (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said recently that he was to have talks about a merger wih the Patriotic Front but Mr Nkomo sharply denied that talks had been scheduled.

Ex-terrorist freed

Rome. — Carlo Fioroni, the first convicted terrorist to collaborate with the Italian police, has been released from prison in Matera. He was sentenced to 27 years' jail for his part in 1974 in a fatal kidnapping, but on appeal his sentence was reduced to 10 years.

American Castro

Miami. — Dr Fidel Castro's younger sister, Juanita, aged 48, became a United States citizen in a ceremony at a Miami auditorium. Miss Castro supported her brother's Cuban revolution before he took power in 1959, but turned agains him soom afterwards and came to the United Startes by way of Mexico in 1964.

Road to Tibet

Hongkong. — China will provide about £14.5m and technical aid to help to repair 16 miles of the road linking Nepal and Tibet damaged by floods four months ago.

Bundestag majority of 43

Schmidt wins confidence vote

From James Hutchinson, Bonn, Feb 5

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today won a resounding *parliamentary victory for his* coalition Government's domestic and foreign policies. Without exception, the coalition deputies — 216 Social Democrats and 53 Free Democrats — voted in the Bundestag in favour of the Chancellor's motion for a vote of confidence.

This gave the Government a majority of 43 over the Christian Democratic Opposition. The result was greeted with prolonged applause from the coalition benches. But predictably, the Opposition says the vote proves nothing, except that the Government is in desperate straits.

Herr Schmidt took the unusual step on Wednesday of asking for a vote of confidence after he had launched a three-year DM12,500m (£2,860m) programme to fight unemployment, which has now reached almost two million. But he made it clear in the Bundestag that was asking for support not only for the jobs programme, but for the whole range of Government policy.

His intention, he said, was to clarify the course of the coalition's economic and peace policies both at home and on the international scene. He admitted that the necessary clarity had been missing in recent weeks, not least because of squabbles within the coalition about the measures to promote investment.

Voters, he said, needed to be sure that the four-year mandate given to the Government in 1980 would indeed be carried out, and that this mandate was based on a sound parliamentary majority. West Germany's allies and the East European states must also be left in no doubt as to where the Government stood.

"I am asking for confidence", he said, "in the continuity and reliability of my foreign and domestic policies".

He claimed that in the 12 years of its existence the coalition had not only worked *successfully* for peace and understanding, but had also made economic progress and promoted social security and consensus.

International economic setbacks, tension in East-West relations and the danger of an arms race had caused the Government to take stock of its position. "The result of its stocktaking is that we shall stay on course not only for weeks or months, but in, the long term."

But the Chancellor's motive in invoking his constitutional right to ask for a vote of confidence was not merely to clear up doubts about his government's policies. He wanted both to demonstrate his parliamentary strength and to show up the Opposition in a bad light. At a time of rampant unemployment the Christian Democrats' rejection of much of the programme will not be popular.

Dr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, declared that the Chancellor had lost the trust of most Germans. The Government was weak, he claimed, and was hanging on to office. Dr Kohl's assessment was only partly correct. Herr Schmidt is still the most popular politician in the country, but the opinion polls show that his Government would lose an election now.

The last Chancellor to ask for a vote of confidence was Herr Willy Brandt in 1972.

Firmly on course: The West German Chancellor in the Bundestag yesterday.

Soviet general expelled

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 5

The most senior military officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington has been expelled from the United States for "activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status".

The State Department said that Major-General Vasily Chitov had been declared *persona non grata*, and had left Washington with his wife on Wednesday. The Soviet Embassy confirmed his departure, but declined any other comment.

General Chitov was detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last weekend, after a chase through the suburbs which was described by an FBI source as being reminiscent of a scene from the film *Bullitt*.

The General was said to have been caught with incriminating documents in his possession. However, he was not arrested and charged with espionage as he was protected by diplomatic immunity.

General Chitov, who is presumed to be a member of GRU, the Soviet military intelligence agency, was in charge of a large staff of military specialists at the Soviet Embassy.

Altogether there are believed to be 250 Soviet diplomatic personnel involved in gathering intelligence in Washington alone. They are particularly interested in information about American high technology.

Mr William Webster, the FBI Director, has complained recently about the increase in the number of diplomatic personnal representing communist nations, because it has complicated counter-intelligence work.

The last Soviet official to be expelled from the United States was Mr Vladimir Popov, a third secretary, who was forced to leave because of his contacts with a former CIA officer, Mr David Barnett.

The State Department has refused to speculate about *whether* the Soviet union might retaliate by expelling a member of the United States Embassy staff in Moscow.

☐ Oslo: Two Soviet diplomats have been asked by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry to leave the country immediately on charges of attempted espionage. (U. Andenaes writes).

The two Russians, Mr Oleg Dokudovsky and Mr Evgeny Volpilovsky, had tried to recruit specialists from Norwegian industry as informers on the technical details of the American F16 fighter aircraft.

The Norwegians were offered money for any services given, but after being approached they chose instead to get in touch with the Norwegian Intelligence Service.

Mubarak taking home US aid concession

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Feb 5

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt ended his four-day stay in Washington today having won agreement on at least one bilateral issue. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury secretary, announced that Egypt will be given greater flexibility in the way it uses American economic assist*ance*.

However, the United States has turned down a request from the Egyptian leader to increase the level of economic assistance to above $1,000m a year. Mr Regan said Washington had agreed to another $1,000m but "there is no upping of that". Egypt is already the largest single recipient of American economic assistance.

Mr Regan: No increase in grant.

Egypt has complained for some time about the restrictions on the way its economic *assistance could be used*, contrasting those limitations awith the virtual "blank cheque" which the Americans give Israel.

Officials said that no decision had yet been taken on a new level of American military assistance to Egypt. President Reagan is expected to propose an increase of $400m to $1,300m in the next fiscal year, but this has still to be approved by Congress.

Although Congress is generally *sympathetic to the idea* of strengthening Egypt's defences, concern has been voiced about President Mubarak's failure to mention the Camp David accords during Wednesday's arrival ceremony and the emphesis he laid on the need for "self-determination" and "national entity" for the Palestinian people.

American officials were taken aback by the Egyptian leader's arrival statement while Israel *accused* President Mubarak of going beyond the Camp David framework by talking of "self-determination for the Palestinians".

Yesterday, however, President Mubarak softened the tone of his remarks by publicly endorsing the Camp David process. Nevertheless he has made it clear that agreement between Egypt and *Israel* on *Palestinian* autonomy is a long way off. The best hope he could offer was that by the end of this year there would be an agreement on the "declaration of principles" recently proposed by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State.

☐ London: The visit of President Mubarak to Britain this weekend is seen in Whitehall as an opportunity to reinforce strong ties forged between the two countries *during the presidency* of the late Anwar Sadat (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The Egyptian leader, who arrives from Washington on Saturday morning, will drive to Chequers for three and a half hours of talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other minsters.

☐ Jerusalem: President Mubarak will pay an official visit to Israel during the second fortnight in March, diplomatic sources said. He will visit Tel Aviv, and the Israelis hope he will also come to Jerusalem.

The late President Sadat wen to Arab East Jerusalem in November, 1977. On subsequent visits, however, he avoided the city. — AFP

NATO PLAN FOR MADRID TACTICS

By Our Foreign Staff

Nato diplomats met in Brussels yesterday to discuss tactics for the resumption of East-West security talks in Madrid next week, with the United States advocating a break in the dialogue because of the Polish crisis.

The 35-nation European security conference, called to review progress in East-West détente, resumes next Tuesday after a two-month Christmas break.

At yesterday's meeting, representatives of the 15 Nato states reviewed plans to protest about repression in Poland at the opening session. Poland will be in the chair for the day at Tuesday's meeting.

Spain, the host nation, indicated yesterday that it flavours a brief session when the conference resumes, lasting about two weeks and then adjourning until the autumn.

Atlanta police 'saw ghosts'

From Neil Sutherland
Atlanta, Feb 5

Vital police witnesses in the Wayne Williams trial saw ghosts, drank beer and slept while on duty and were afraid of the dark, the defence claimed today.

Mr Williams, a 23-year-old self-styled music producer, is charged with the murders of two of the 28 young blacks whose bodies have been discovered here.

A former police recruit, Mr Kenneth Lawson, told the court of long nights of duty in the special task force assigned to watch bridges where many of the bodies were found. He also gave evidence about his fellow recruits, who claim to have heard the splash which led to the arrest of Mr Williams.

"They used to tell ghost stories on the walkie talkies. I couldn't count the number of times they spoke of ghosts. It got to be a joke among all the recruits," he said.

Mr Lawson said that on one occasion the two prosecution witnesses claimed to have seen a "hazy white figure" by the river bank and a swat (action) team was sent in.

"The swat team came back and said they must have been seeing ghosts. They thought it was quite humorous", the witness said.

He told the court that he knew the other two recruits well and they had admitted to him they would sleep while they were on duty. "They were afraid of the dark and being in the woods alone", he said.

The witness said the two would take a pup-tent to make their night duties more comfortable. "I once spoke to one of them about drinking beer on duty and he indicated they had some alcohol with them", he stated.

The defence is expected to take some weeks rebutting *piece* by piece the prosecution case created by more than 100 witnesses.

More shots in Graham Greene's private war

From Jonathan Fenby
Nice, Feb 5

The man who unwittingly unleashed Graham Greene's onslaught (first disclosed in a letter to *The Times* on January 25) on alleged criminal, police and judicial corruption in this Riviera city today called on the writer to confront him with proof of his accusations.

Speaking in his lawyer's office, the former husband of a woman whose case, Mr Greene says, illustrates the underworld's grip on Nice, insisted that he had an answer to all the allegations against him.

He had not treated his former television announcer wife badly, he said. He was not linked to the underworld. He had a psychiatrist's report to prove that he was not a violent character, and sworn statements from 20 neighbours to show that he was a loving father who only cared for the welfare of his daughters.

On the other hand, he insisted, he was the victim of a witch-hunt conducted by his former wife's family and their friend Graham Greene. This was nothing new, he said. In April, 1980, he had taken the trouble to write to the prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes department complaining about "the indescribable attitude of my ex-family-in-law and of Mr Graham Greene".

The author, he said in the letter, had threatened to use the press against him after having already brought high-level pressure to bear to get an inquiry opened by an investigator from Paris into allegations that he had held a mistress prisoner and had beaten her up, breaking her nose.

The 41-year-old man refused to allow his full name to be used, preferring to be known simply as "Daniel". Slim and dark haired, he introduced himself sardonically to me this morning as "the famous Mafiosi".

His lawyer, Maître Patrice Lorenzi, said legal proceedings were being started against a French newspaper which had named his client's firm and that other legal actions would probably follow. He declined to say whether Mr Greene might be included among them.

Through the two and a half hour conversation with me and two French reporters, Daniel maintained the perfect picture of injured innocence. He did not deny having a criminal record, but insisted it had been a youthful folly and was now behind him.

Anyway, he suggested it was hypocritical for his former family-in-law and their friend Mr Greene to bring the matter up against him now, since they had known of his record when he married his wife, Martine. In addition, he had benefited from an amnesty and could produce a clean legal sheet as a result.

As for the main matter raised by Mr Greene in a letter to *The Times* 10 days ago and in an interview with the *Sunday Times* last weekend, Daniel insisted that there was no reason to link the fight between his wife and himself over custody of their daughters with accusations that Nice was the haunt of a criminal milieu run by corrupt police and lawyers against whom formal justice was powerless.

"I ask today to be confronted with Graham Greene and I ask him to bring forward his proof," he said as the meeting ended. "I just hope nothing happens to him, for my sake."

According to Daniel, he had been wrongly suspected. A case had been built up against him out of "rumours and pillow talk".

He produced court records confirming his custody of his elder daughter and claimed that his former wife's signature on the papers showed that she agreed he look after the girl.

Allegations that he ran a Rolls Royce and a BMW car he answered with papers to prove that they were company cars bought second hand.

The BMW was used by another member of the company. The 1975 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow was needed to drive around prospective buyers of the luxury flats that Daniel's company dealt in.

Pravda backs Polish purge

Moscow, Feb 5.— *Pravda* said today that the Polish Communist Party had entered a critical phase and it must act decisively to maintain the stability that martial law had brought.

The party newspaper said the declaration of martial law in December had reestablished order in the Polish streets and created the conditions for a normal working life. "But this step, as is noted by the local press, solves only the first problem."

The second, more complicated task was to strengthen the foundations of the state, which had been eroded by 18 months of counter-revolutionary activity. "The successful resolution of these vital problems depends — and this is quite clear — on the PUWP (Communist Party) on the decisiveness and consistency of its action", it said.

The report, from the newspaper's Warsaw correspondent, implicitly endorsed the present purge of liberals and reformers *from the party* and suggested that the process should be carried through thoroughly.

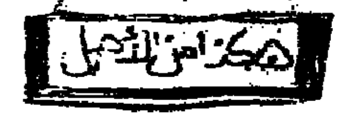
"At meetings of party activists the main subject of debate is strengthening of party ranks, their consolidation on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the intensification of militancy, and readiness to take the offensive in party work", *Pravda* said.

The Polish Communist Party lost a large proportion of its membership during the 18 months of reform which followed the 1980 summer strikes, and many liberals have left the party of been expelled since the military crackdown.

Despite several references to a resumption of the party's activity on a factory level, the report stopped well short of suggesting it would be capable of governing the country if martial law were lifted.—Reuter.

☐ Colleges open: Warsaw radio announced yesterday the reopening next week of the universities of Warsaw, Gdansk, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Lodz, Poznan, Torun and Wroclaw, according to a broadcast monitored in London by the BBC. (AFP reports).

A Warsaw radio commentary also gave warning against renewed opposition in schools and universities, saying that organizers of strikes last year were "trying to involve children and young people in a very dangerous game as conspirators."



White S African doctor dies in police detention

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 5

A young white trade unionist, detained under South Africa's stringent anti-terrorist laws, was found dead in his cell at Security police headquarters in Johannesburg early today.

The police said that Dr Neil Aggett had hanged himself. It is the first known death in a South African prison since Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, died in September, 1977, from injuries sustained while being held for interrogation.

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations, Dr Aggett is the forty-sixth person to have died in security police custody since 1963 when the institute began keeping records. He is also believed to be the first white detainee to have died.

Dr Aggett, who was the Transvaal secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, was found dead only a day after Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Police, had assured Parliament that all reasonable precautions were being taken to see that detainees were prevented from "hurting themselves or being hurt in any other way or comitting suicide".

The official statement by the Commissioner of Police, General Mike Geldenhuys, read as follows: "We confirm Dr Neil Hutchin Aggett (aged 27) was being held in terms of Section 6 (1) of the Terrorism Act in the police cells at John Vorster Square.

"At 1.30am, February 5, he was found hanged in his cell and everything indicates that he committed suicide. When he was visited in the cell 30 minutes before he was discovered dead, everything was in order. His father and sister were informed of his death and an inquest investigation is being conducted by the CID of the South African police. The docket will be forwarded to the Attorney General of the Transvaal as soon as possible."

In a telegram to Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee said it was appalled at Dr Aggett's death, which "confirms that detention and interrogation place intolerable pressures on detainees".

The committee asked why detainees should want to hurt themselves, "if it were not because of lengthy detention in solitary confinement, intolerable pressure of interrogation under bullying, threatening and even blackmail conditions, without any recourse to outside help".

Dr Aggett was detained last November in a police roundup of politically active trade unionists, students and church leaders. He was first held under provisions allowing detention for up to 14 days without trial but then redetained under the notorious Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

This makes it possible for people to be held incomunicado and without charge indefinitely if police suspect they possess information relating to security offences or which could be used as material evidence against others charg edwith such offences.

In parliament earlier this week, Mr le Grange told MPs to expect a big trial of detainees later this year, but gave no further details. He also said that 133 persons were being held under the security laws, not counting those in 14-day detention.

Friends, relatives and trade union colleagues of Dr Aggett, who trained as a doctor at the University of Cape Town, today described him as very stable and the last person they would have expected to kill himself.

"I would say he was a remarkably stable kind of a guy. Either he was subjected to pressure beyond belief or he was killed", Mr David Lewis, secretary of the General Workers' Union, said.

Dr Aggett's own union is one of a small number of multiracial, though predominantly black, independent and unregistered trade unions which have become more militant in the past two years. They are subjected to constant police harassment.

A statement issued by Mr Jan Theron, the general secretary of the union said: "No inquiry by the police or their minister will convince our union or the thousands of workers he represented that Neil Aggett took his own life."

Shells greet Carrington

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, watching a Cambodian girl refugee operating a loom at a refugee centre mear the Thai-Cambodian border yesterday.

In the hour before Lord Carrington, who is on an official visit to Thailand, arrived at the camp at Nong Chan two Vietnamese shells came crashing in and a resistance fighter stepped on a landmine just across the border in Cambodia, injuring himself badly (David Watts writes from Nong Chan).

Terrified women were late to pick up their food at a regular distribution, fearful of more Vietnamese shells, and Thai Red Cross workers preparing to meet the Foreign Secretary missed his arrival when they took the unfortunate guerrilla to hospital.

The life of the refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border was going on much as it has done since the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in 1979. Only the camps have taken on a permanent air.

Lord Carrington saw carefully cultivated plots of vegetables not far from the neat rows of reed huts that are home to more than 40,000 refugees at Nong Chan. Nothing could better symbolize the impasse between the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and Vietnam over the situation in Cambodia.

The Nong Chan camp is on the border and the Vietnamese army front line was only two miles away from the Foreign Secretary.

Lord and Lady Carrington saw food being distributed to some 13,000 Cambodian women and girls, a special feeding programme for young mothers and the hospital area. The Foreign Secretary was pleasantly surprised by the apparent order and cleanliness. "It's surprisingly unsmelly", he said at one point.

Coup trial demand for 30-year sentences

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 5

The chief military prosecutor in the forthcoming trial of Army officers accused of involvement in last February's coup attempt has presented his main charges to the defence lawyers and demanded 30 years' imprisonment each for the main defendants.

This is the maximum sentence for military rebellion, and conviction would also mean dismissal from the Army. The prosecutor's demand comes after 11 months of investigations.

Those facing 30 years are Lieutenant General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former captain-general of Valencia; General Alfonso Armada, the former deputy chief of the Army; and Colonel Antonio Tejero, the officer commanding the Civil Guards whose seizure of Parliament on February 23 went on television round the world.

General José Claver Torrente, the prosecutor, has decided to reduce the sentences demanded for a major who was General Milans's aide, and for the sole civilian among the 33 charged, Señor Juan Garcia Carres, from 12 years' jail to 10.

Reductions of three to four years are also sought on a total of 23 accused, chiefly Civil Guard captains and lieutenants.

The prosecution's conclusions were passed by defence lawyers to a local news agency. They will form the basis of the opening prosecution statement at the trial, the date for which has yet to be fixed by the Supreme Council of Military Justice. The date generally expected is February 18.

One of General Claver Torrente's most significant conclusions is that General Armada, a former close aide of King Juan Carlos, allegedly agreed the coup plot with General Milans at the meeting in Valencia on January 10 last year.

□ The Government is taking very seriously intelligence reports that hardline elements of the politico-military wing of the Basque separatist group ETA have decided to return to acts of violence, after suspending them at the time of the coup attempt.

The Cabinet's special committee on the security of the state, chaired by the Prime Minister and only set up in December, analyzed the reports last night

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Deployment of SS20s boosted

Bonn. — West Germany said yesterday that the Soviet Union's arsenal of medium-range nuclear missile warheads had reached an all-time high and there was no sign Moscow had stopped deploying its SS20 missiles.

Herr Lothar Ruehl, a government spokesman, quoting latest Western satellite intelligence, said the Kremlin had now deployed 280 of the triple-warhead missiles, with a total of 840 warheads. Five more firing bases were still waiting to be equipped, he said, and each base contained nine missile launchers.

The Soviet Union was slowly withdrawing its obsolete single-warhead SS4 and SS5 missiles; but 300 of these were still deployed, he said.

Deng attacks bureaucracy

Peking — Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who has not been seen in public for more than three weeks, has given a speech on trimming China's top-heavy bureaucracy, official Chinese sources said.

The sources, speaking after speculation about Mr Deng's whereabouts, said he had given the speech in Peking during the past two weeks. Official announcements have constantly said China's key leader was in the best of health without saying where he was.

Cabinet changes by Nyerere

Dar es Salaam. — President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania has announced extensive changes in his Cabinet including the dismissal of Mr Joseph Mungai, the Agriculture Minister.

The new Agriculture Minister is Mr John Baptist Machunda, formerly an associate professor of agriculture at Dar es Salaam University.

Italian kidnapped

Pistoia. — Four bandits armed with pistols and a submachine gun kidnapped Signor Osvaldo Ferretti, an industrialist, from his factory. They dragged him into a lorry after tying up two employees, Italian police said.

Mercenaries accused of treason in Seychelles

Victoria, Seychelles, Feb 5 — Seven foreigners, including a Briton, accused of participating in an unsuccesful mercenary invasion of the Seychelles, were today charged with treason, an offence punishable by death.

The six white men and a South African woman, alleged to have been an accomplice, are the first people to be charged with treason in the Seychelles. They were captured after a battle for the international airport here between a mercenary force and local troops on November 25.

There had been doubts among legal experts whether foreigners could be charged with treason but Mr Bernard Rassool, the Attorney-General maintained that the law covered foreign nationals as well as the people of Seychelles.

The seven accused — four South Africans, two white Zimbabweans and a Briton — were also charged in the Supreme Court with waging or preparing to wage war against the Seychelles. The death sentence for treason is not mandatory but there has been public pressure for the mercenaries' execution Reuter

□ Johannesburg: Forty-five mercenaries involved in the abortive Seychelles coup have been warned not to cooperate under any circumstances with the special United Nations commission investigating it, the *Rand Daily Mail* said today (AFP reports). The three-man commission arrives in Johannesburg today for talks with South African security officials.

RUSSIANS' BOSPORUS BUMPS

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Feb 5

Three Soviet merchant ships have been involved in collisions in the Bosporus this week, highlighting the increasing need for international mandatory rules to regulate the passage through the narrow strait.

Today a Soviet cargo ship, laden with ammonia, rammed into a moored cargo ship at Istanbul port and then struck a military pier where Nato installations are located.

Yesterday, in a blizzard, a head-on collision occurred between two Soviet cargo ships, Chernigov and Izhora, in the busy waterway joining the Black Sea with the Mediterranean.

On Wednesday the Sovetskiye Profsiyuzy rammed a moored Turkish ship.

Banks battle ends without tears

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 5

The great parliamentary battle over nationalization. Which began in the Autumn, ended today to the undisguised relief of both the Government and Opposition.

The new Bill transferring to state ownership five industrial groups and 36 private banks, which took into account the objections of the Constitutional Court to the first Bill was finally adopted. At its third reading by the National Assembly this afternoon.

The Bill has yet to overcome a final hurdle. The Opposition in the Assembly has referred it for a second time to the Constitutional Court on the grounds that it infringes the basic law. Under the emergency procedure which the Government has adopted, the court has a week to render its verdict.

The opinion of experts is that this time it will raise no objections. The law could therefore be promulgated around the middle of this month.

The Opposition fought a rearguard action against the Bill without much conviction, and gave up the idea of a repeat performance of the battle of amendments which had marked the debate on the first Bill. The Government was reluctant to resort once again to the blocked vote, but used the threat of it. Along with the emergency procedure, to get the Bill through.

The girl I saw become a Queen

Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the Throne 30 years ago today. Sir Harold Wilson, who headed four administrations under her, pays a personal tribute.

Just 30 years ago today, on February 6, 1952, we were summoned, the 100-odd members of the Privy Council, to St James's Palace in Westminster to proclaim the accession to the royal throne of the Princess Elizabeth, following the sudden death of her royal father, King George VI.

At the time of His Majesty's death, Her Royal Highness, with her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was in Kenya, ready to proceed to India. As soon as news of the King's death reached her, she and the Duke flew to Entebbe in Uganda, where a British aircraft was waiting to bring her home.

On her arrival she went straightaway to the Accession Council where, in the most moving ceremonial I can recall, she referred to her father's death, and pledged herself to continue his dedication to uphold constitutional government, and his work of reconciliation and the promotion of constitutional government and the happiness and prosperity of his — now her — people.

I had the honour of serving Her Majesty during four administrations. (Gladstone, by the time he reached the age of 94, had also headed four, though the last was a coalition with the Southern Irish MPs at Westminster).

Our constitutional procedure is simple. It works not least because we live by experience and history and are spared the unworkable complications of a legalistic written constitution on Continental lines. When the outgoing *Prime Minister*, defeated in a general election, goes to the Palace to surrender his seals of office, the Monarch sends for the Leader of the Opposition; that is, if he clearly has a majority, or is capable of achieving one by agreement with other parties such as the Liberals.

The traditional formula is: "Can you form a government?", to which the traditional answer is a hurried affirmation. The alternative, in a hung election, is:"Your Majesty, I will go along and try" — meaning that he will seek allies in the House to give him a parliamentary majority, or at least the chance of one.

In the first case the sovereign informally tells her visitor that he is Prime Minister; in the second, he begins work on urgent problems while entering into treaty discussions with possible allies. Should all parties, and groupings of them, fail to create a working majority, it would be her responsibility to call another election on, of course, the advice of the last potential prime minister she has been able to unearth.

It is not her duty to assess whether a potential prime minister can form a government — that is his duty. After the "hung" election of 1974, when Edward Heath's government had failed to record a majority, British democracy stood still, while Ted vainly sought an understanding with the Liberals.

The monarchy in Britain has gone through great vicissitudes in popular esteem and enthusiasm for more than a thousand years. There have been wars and rebellions, great *clashes between* dynastic contenders for the throne, breakaway monarchies, civil conflict and, indeed, international wars over the right kingship (and in the case of the first Queen Elizabeth, queenship) were bitterly and sometimes bloodily contested.

Just a hundred years ago, when Britain's sovereignty reigned unchallenged across the five continents, Queen Victoria lived alone and withdrawn, portrayed by a leading poet as *The Widow at Windsor* swathed in her black mourning, little seen by her people. There was even in the country an undercurrent of Republicanism and inevitably ambitious or disillusioned men sought to exercise their constitutional imagination as they drafted paper constitutions.

Some commentators, even in text-books, seem to suggest that the Queen's role in constitutional and political matters is purely mechanical, simply acquiescing in documents from Downing Street and the automatic confirmation of the "Royal Assent" to legislation passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

Such judgments are rooted in ignorance. For centuries now the royal role, its duty rather, to "advise, to encourage and to warn" has been a key element in our unwritten constitution. When the Queen graciously visited Downing Street and dined with Cabinet Ministers on the eve of my resignation in 1976, I recorded that she had already "seen off" more United Kingdom Prime Ministers, to say nothing of the rest of her Commonwealth, than had Queen Victoria, at a *corresponding point in her reign.*

Again, she has probably visited more Commonwealth countries than all her predecessors taken together. It is extremely rare for any territory to achieve nationhood without her being there for the ceremony. How many prime ministers have visited Nauru? How many could point to it on the globe without requiring a thousand miles tolerance? How many could have waxed eloquent on Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Seychelles or Grenada, as she could?

The centrepiece of every Commonwealth conference held in London during her reign has been her dinner party at the Palace: not only that, every head of government will have been invited for a separate personal audience. When, on the day of Winstons Churchill's funeral service, Ian Smith of Rhodesia failed to arrive at her lunch for Commonwealth leaders she despatched an equerry to summon him from the lunch-table at St Ermin's Hotel.

For many years, Commonwealth Heads of Government Conferences were invariably held in London. I had secured agreement that the 1971 conference should be held in Singapore, and arrangements were made for the Queen to gothere in Britannia. She was greatly looking forward to it, but following the General Election of that year and Edward Heath's victory, his Cabinet, I was told, withdrew the recommendation.

From then on, other Commonwealth countries hosted the conferences and after my return to Downing Street the first I attended was in Jamaica, to which Britannia proceeded. In place of the Palace, the Queen's party for the heads of government was on board her royal yacht. Photographers came to take a group picture and as 30 of us sat to be taken and silence reigned, Prince Philip, quite audibly commented: "To think that world peace depends on this lot". Never have so many prime ministers been photographed together laughing so uproariously.

Nor are her preoccupations entirely concerned with the Britain of the 1980s. From earliest days, she has taken the greatest care in planning the Prince of Wales's education. He went not to one of the historic English schools, Eton, Harrow, or Rugby, but to Gordonstoun in Scotland, a modern foundation with a first-class scholastic record.

He then went, after the Queen had informally consulted party leaders, to her father's old college in Cambridge for a time, following this by a period at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, in his principality — a decision greatly welcomed by the Welsh people. Another period he spent in Australia, a country he has vigorously explored.

Following a number of discussions at my weekly prime ministerial audience with the Queen, it was decided to give him experience of public administration — in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's powerhouse in Whitehall, and in a number of Government departments. He also familiarized himself with the workings of local government in the councils of our towns and countries, and increasingly, with industry.

He had, of course, a long stint in the Armed Forces, becoming captain of a warship and also an experienced helicopter pilot.

Although the Queen's peoples at home and abroad hope that this preparation is for a far-distant future, it can safely be said that no future monarch has ever received training, experience and encouragement of comparable width and depth.

On the eve of his resignation as Prime Minister in March 1976, Harold Wilson greets the Queen, arriving at No. 10 Downing Street for a farewell dinner.

Geoffrey Smith

Will the Liberals gently walk off with the swag?

A dozen leaders of the Social Democrats and the Liberals will be meeting this weekend in Oxfordshire to discuss the alliance's long-term plans and prospects for the election, and significantly beyond. They are right to examine these critical issues now, but if the alliance is to have any long-term future it will first have to solve its immediate difficulties over the allocation of parliamentary seats.

It has reached the position where it sees the prospect of alluring fortune ahead if only it can decide how to divide the spoils. Yet this is proving a slow and arduous task because each party is surveying the scene from a different angle.

For the Social Democrats there is the nagging fear that while they will contribute most to whatever success the alliance wins, it will be the Liberals who will make off with most of the booty. It is the coming of the SDP that has transformed the face of British politics, yet because of the way that seats are being shared out there is a serious possibility of there being significantly more Liberals than Social Democrats in the next Parliament.

It was because of this fear that Mr William Rodgers, the chief SDP negotiator, decided at the beginning of the year that the time had come to blow the whistle. Unfortunately he seemed to swallow it instead. The impression was given of hard-nosed professional politicians of the SDP roughing up those nice Liberals, who once again were being too gentle by half. It is a picture that can be recognized only at a distance. The closer one gets the more one is struck by how effectively the gentle Liberals are managing to take care of themselves.

The Liberals have a number of interests to secure. The first is to ride the Social Democratic tide. Of course, they would never dream of putting it like that. But the emergence of the Social Democrats has brought a surge of new support for the centre of British politics: the Liberals naturally want to take advantage of it, but they have been afraid that they might be swept aside in the onrush of the SDP.

The alliance therefore suits the Liberal purpose ideally. It has in fact become a necessity for both parties. But while the Social Democrats might hope to break through on their own, the Liberals know in their hearts that this would be impossible for them.

Another Liberal interest is to see that it is a Liberal candidate who represents the alliance in those constituencies where the party has done particularly well in the past, or has an especially lively organization or zealous candidate. The right of local autonomy within the party also has to be safeguarded, otherwise all hell will break out in the Liberal ranks.

When it was finally decided on January 26 to resume negotiations on the allocation of seats, the task of the negotiators was to reconcile these Liberal interests with the SDP demand for an equal share of winnable seats, preferably secured by laying down sufficiently precise guidelines at national level. The way they did so provides a fascinating insight into the oblique nature of many political decisions.

They agreed first to aim for equal representation of the two parties in the next Parliament on the basis of what they regarded as a middling outcome for the alliance: 200 seats. So far so good. But how was such a broad principle to be applied?

The Liberals insisted that they had 40 to 50 seats, excluding those held by sitting MP's, which they must fight. The Social Democrats accepted this, with a slight variation. They acknowledged that the Liberals should have first call on

> The SDP feel that it is easy enough to persuade Mr Steel to be fair, not so easy for him to persuade his team of national negotiators . . .

some 50 seats, including those held by their MPs. In recognition of this concession the SDP should, so they claimed, have two seats to each one for the Liberals in the next best 150 otherwise there would not be an equal share of he best 200.

But the Liberals maintained that if sitting MPs were to be included on one side, so should they be on the other. The 27 seats now held by Social Democratic MPs should be balanced against those where the Liberals were to have first call. There would not therefore be all that much leeway for the SDP to make up in order to gain a fair share of the best 200 seats.

But the critical question was whether the Social Democrats were to have a two to one advantage in the second group of seats, no matter whether. that group was to number 150 or whatever. The Liberal response to that claim can best be expressed in the old Scottish phrase: "I hear you." They didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. Some Liberals believe that they did agree, but if so it was with such delicacy and discretion that it escaped some of their own colleagues.

There was, however, at least and understanding. But it was an unwritten understanding. No terms of the treaty were set out in precise words: that would have been awkward for the Liberals with their local parties. Nor were any lists produced of the Liberals' top 50 seats, or the next 150 seats, or any permutations on those figures: that would have been evedn more awkward for the Liberals. But if the details are left so unspecified how can such an agreement be implemented in the various regional negotiations?

It would be relatively easy if in each region the SDP could be given the appropriate number of silver seats to compensate for the Liberals' golden ones in that same region.

The country is not divided so neatly, though, that it is always possible to strike the necessary balance within a region. There have to be trade-offs between regions as well. That is where the difficulty arises with the Liberal insistence on local autonomy. The SDP feel that it is easy enough to persuade Mr Mavid Steel to be fair, not so easy for him to persuade his team of national negotiators, and harder still for the national negotiators to persuade local Liberal negotiators.

There are bound to be problems in inducing local Liberals to adhere to undertakings which their national negotiators are not prepared to acknowledge publicly that they have given. So they come back to the broad *principle that both parties* openly accept: equal representation in the next Parliament on the basis of 200 seats.

But the implementation of that principle is further complicated by the conflicting calculations as to what are the best seats for the alliance — with the Liberals complaining that the Social Democrats attach too much importance to past Liberal performance and therefore want to pinch all the best Liberal seats, and the SDP responding that the Liberals want to keep all the best alliance seats for themselves because there is a strong Liberal organization there.

The difficulties will probably be resolved in the end simply because it is so much in the interest of both parties to reach agreement. But it will be on terms that will give the Liberals a good chance of being rather the larger party in the next Parliament.

The Social Democrats will not be able to translate their greater strength in the country into a dominating position in the House of Commons. The two parties will have to live with each other as broadly equal parliamentary forces. This is the prospect that the leaders wil have to bear in mind as they lay their plans for the future this weekend in Oxfordshire.

A small matter of the cheese board

Eating out in Britain has been given a welcome stimulus this year with the unprecedented award of the Michelin three-star accolade to a London restaurant, Le Gavroche. The Times will be reviewing a selection of celebrated restaurants in London and round the rest of Britain — through the discriminating palates of two distinguished European food writers, M. Robert Courtine and Herr Gert von Paczensky — in a special series beginning next Saturday, when Herr Paczensky will be introduced by Gerald Long. While Le Gavroche was being vetted for its three-star award, Mr Long was, as it happens, engaged in genial disputation with its proprietor, Mr Albert Roux. These are their exchanges:

From Mr Gerald Long

Mr A. Roux,
Le Gavroche Restaurant,
London W1.

Dear Mr Roux,

I dined recently at your restaurant Le Gavroche for the first time. I would like to draw one small matter to your attention.

The large selection of cheeses was presented as specially chosen for Le Gavroche by a French cheese expert, and consisting of only French farmhouse cheeses.

This last expression surprised me, since it would, in my experience, be difficult to make such an absolute claim for any cheese board of such variety, here or in France, if one were to translate the rather vague word "farmhouse" as "de fabrication fermière", which has a precise meaning.

I suggested that at least one cheese I could see, described as a St Paulin, was produced industrially. This met at first with an indignant response from your waiter, who then retreated into "if Monsieur knows cheese better than I do, then of course Monsieur is right": a quiet arrogance which was typical of most of the service throughout the evening.

Checking in the Androuet Guide du Fromage, I find under St Paulin, a cheese which is, according to Androuet, produced all over France, the note: "Fabrication: de petite, moyenne ou grande industrie".

Mimolette, which your waiter said he had but was not on the board, has the note:

"Fabrication: aujourd' hui totalement industrialisée".

Pride in what you offer to your guests is natural and to be respected, to the extent of course that what you offer is good. The cheeses were perfectly respectable, if unremarkable, and, for my taste, too numerous. I doubt whether you would wish to take refuge behind the probably undefinable term "farmhouse"; if you do, of course, there is no more to be said except that such an attitude would not be consistent with the most rigorous standards.

If you do not seek refuge in ambiguity, I would suggest that you might wish to moderate the claims made on behalf of your cheeses.

In case others might share my view that such precision is a characteristic of the best restaurants, I will send a copy of this letter to Michelin.

Yours faithfully,
Gerald Long.
November 5,1981.

From Mr A. H. Roux

Mr G. Long,
London EC1

Dear Mr Long,

Thank you for your most courteous letter of 5th November.

I always appreciate it very much indeed when customers take the trouble to write to me with their experiences. I usually reply to such letters immediately, but on this occasion, before replying to you, I wanted to consult Maitre Philippe Olivier, who supplies our cheese exclusively. Although I enjoy my cheese, I do not profess to be an authority on it, and felt that I could not answer your letter adequately without prior consultation.

The St Paulin cheese you refer to is more specifically known as "Belleval de St Paul — fromage artisan au lait cru de l'Abbeye uniquement fabriqué par les religieux". Here you have a cheese which is entirely made by craftsmen on the scale of a cottage industry.

As for the definition of "Fromage Fermier". It is completely different to "Farmhouse", although the translated term could lead to confusion. A cheese may be manufactured on a small to medium scale, but nevertheless have the name "Fromage de Tradition", as long as the milk used in its manufacture is not pasteurized, and that the cheese is moulded by hand or with a ladle. An industrial cheese is invariably the label of pasteurized cheese.

All the cheeses which we import weekly from Maitre Philippe Olivier are non-pasteurized. This is one of the major reasons why we go to the trouble of obtaining a special veterinary certificate each week to import these cheeses. A large number of the cheeses come from farmers which Maitre Olivier has selected himself.

The person who serves the cheese at Le Gavroche is Jean-Claude, our first Maitre d'Hotel, and I am very sorry that you found him arrogant. Jean-Claude has one hobby in life, and that is, wine and cheese, and can get very emotional when he talks about his favourite subject.

I am very sorry that you said that you found his arrogance typical of most of the service. I train my staff to speak to customers only when they are spoken to, and to intrude as little as possible during the service.

I am also sorry that you feel we stock too many cheeses. After checking again with Maître Olivier, it appears that the cheese we have represents about 5 per cent of all the French varieties.

I hope my letter clarifies your questions. It remains for me to thank you for you valued custom, and hope that you will not be deterred from visiting Le Gavroche again on account of our cheese. I am always working in the kitchen, so if you do visit the restaurant again, please do ask for me as I would be delighted to meet you.

I have also sent a copy of my reply to the *Michelin Guide.*

Yours sincerely,
A. H. Roux,
Managing Director.
November 16, 1981.

Dear Mr Roux,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November. I am grateful for the trouble you have taken, in which I recognize the care you devote to your restaurant. It may seem churlish of me to esteem the effort in both, but to like the result in neither; great care can lead to over-elaboration, but here we are, of course, in the notoriously indefinable realms of taste.

It is now obvious that there are as many definitions of cheese as there are holes in an Emmentaler; it would not be profitable to pursue questions such as: when is an industry not an industry? and when is a farmhouse not a farmhouse? If the law does not define 'farmhouse' in the context of cheese, and I am reliably informed that it does not, then the term is so vague as to be possibly misleading, which was why I suggested you might consider not using it.

The terms used in the two letters of the non-experts on cheese that we are comprise: farmhouse, de fabrication fermière, fermier, de tradition, artisan, industrial. The cheese you say is the one I refer to is in Androuet, though the spelling given is 'Belval' and not 'Belleval' as you have it. It is a Picard cheese, which adds to its interest since M Olivier is in Boulogne, where I know his shop. If it is indeed the cheese I saw it belies its artisanal origin through an appearance very closer to that type of French nursery cheese known disparagingly as 'Bonbel' or 'Vache qui rit'.

There would appear to be an internal contradiction in your letter in that you say that the cheese is the product of a cottage industry, and is unpasteurized, and then, later, that 'industrial' is invariably the label of pasteurized cheese. To reconcile these statements requires the conclusion that a cottage industry is not an industry.

My opinion on the size of your cheeseboard is influenced by thirty years' periodic observation of cheese boards all over France. In cheese producing areas I always prefer to see the cheeses of the area; it is obviously a policy decision to have no English cheese in a London restaurant; London is in any event not a cheese producing area, so there is nothing more to be said about that.

My dislike of large cheese boards is based partly on a dislike of what frequently appears to be numbers for numbers' sake, and partly on the practical difficulty of maintaining a large number of different cheeses in good condition. Androuet says certain cheeses may be kept in the refrigerator; although he lays down rigorous conditions for that storage, I would, from my own experience, doubt that this is, in general, safe advice.

You say that your selection represents about five per cent of all French varieties. I have not counted them exactly, but Androuet lists some 450; twenty-two cheeses are a formidable trolleyful.

My visit to Le Gavroche was my first; I found the food interesting, but I did not like it; I am sure however that my opinions are entirely untypical of your clientele and are therefore of little practical worth. That being so, it is self indulgence to set them down; I do so largely for the sake of my own record.

I began with a salad in which I remember I think mâche, and the sliced breast of two birds, one of which was grouse, which was delicious; the other has not remained in my memory. The amount of dressing was excessive, which spoilt what would otherwise have been a perfectly pleasant dish.

I then made the mistake of choosing turbot, perhaps my favourite fish, in a port-wine sauce. The sauce was heavy, and succeeded in combining sweetness and bitterness in a way that is more usual in Chinese than in French restaurants. It completely masked the taste of the fish, and, being opaque in a dim light, also masked the fish itself.

In my view fish served in a heavy sauce, usually an error, should not contain bones; my turbot did. It was present in very small quantity, and appeared to be overcooked. I drew that conclusion from its rather hard consistency; it had no taste.

There are, to my mind, very few sauces that can improve good fresh turbot, poached or grilled. Your sauce was not among them. It also seemed to me to offend against the great principle enunciated by Escoffier: 'faites simple'.

And then the cheese, which is where we came in.

The tragedy of eating in London is, to my mind, that many restaurants wish to give good service, I am sure you do, but that very few people ask for it.

Yours is a thankless task; I wish you well in tackling it.

Yours sincerely,
Gerald Long.
November 18, 1981.

From Michelin, Paris

Mr Gerald Long.

Dear Sir,

We appreciate the interest you have shown in our Tourism Department and thank you for having drawn our attention to a restaurant mentioned in our Guide *Great Britain and Ireland*, under London.

Your comments have been carefully noted in the relevant file, so that we may consider them, together with our other readers' letters, when up-dating our information.

Of course, we shall acquaint our Inspectors with your opinion and they will bear this in mind when carrying out further visits. It goes without saying that they will then make the necessary remarks to the management.

Hoping that you will be completely satisfied, henceforth, with your choice of hotels and restaurants, we remain,

Yours faithfully,
Michelin et cie.
November 23, 1981.

Dear Mr Long,

Thank you for your letter of 18th November.

The fact that you have taken so much trouble to write about food leaves me with endless pleasure. So much so, that I would very much like you and your wife to be my guests for lunch or dinner, as I find from your letter that we have a great deal in common — a great love of food.

Would you please telephone me to make a date.

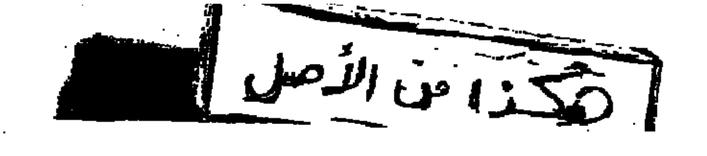
Yours sincerely,
A. H. Roux,
November 23, 1981.

Dear Mr Roux,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November, for your kind words, and for your generous invitation; I greatly appreciate it, but I hope you will understand if I do not accept it. In any event, I eat very rarely in restaurants, in this country even less than in France.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Gerald Long.
November 26, 1981.

Mr Roux said yesterday that he would still like to invite Mr and Mrs Long to dine.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, Telephone : 01-837 1234

THE FALL OF LAKER

There are lots of lessons to be learnt from the failure of Laker Airways — and some danger that the lessons learnt will be the wrong ones. There will be calls to strengthen the stranglehold which the state has on ownership and competition. That would be bad for customers, bad for economies and bad for the development of air transport.

Not all those calls come from the left, though the demands in Parliament yesterday are a depressing reminder of the mindless opposition to privatization. The airline industry itself is likely to take satisfaction in Sir Freddie's fall. The cause of cheap fares and open skies has been put back. But the challenge which Laker posed to the cartel in air travel and the example he gave of how competition can improve services must not be lost.

At the heart of the Laker revolution in travel across the North Atlantic was a basic proposition of business. If you can give people something which they want at lower cost, more will choose to buy. It is the secret of the great expansion of the western free market economies over the past 200 years. Yet it is too often forgotten.

Nowhere has the neglect of this elementary rule been more apparent than in the airline industry. Governments and airlines have cooperated to keep out competition. As a result, fares have been kept high and the number of people who could afford to fly has been kept down. To complete the circle, the airlines have claimed that air passengers are more interested in the frequency of service than the price they pay.

It is this circle which Sir Freddie Laker so triumphantly broke with his Skytrain service. Before that was launched he was little more than an enterprising operator of charter flights. Skytrain revolutionized long-distance air travel by cutting through much of the expensive inconvenience of traditional airlines. Its most important feature was certainly the low price; but its attractiveness for many passengers was enhanced by the feeling that they could walk on to the aircraft without the complexities of making reservations and booking in advance.

Some of the changes pioneered by Skytrain will survive. The standby concept has been adopted by the conventional airlines who Sir Freddie set out to beat, at least on those routes where passengers had the choice of using Laker. The move towards greater competition within the United States was helped by the success of Laker and is unlikely ever to be wholly reversed. But much of the structure of air travel has been left untouched and is likely to try to reassert itself even on the North Atlantic route where competition is fiercest. The established airlines have beaten off the interloper and will be inclined to see his failure as an endorsement of all their past practices. They would be wrong.

They would be wrong to deny that price competition attracts new customers. Over the past year Laker's competitors have been using their considerable financial resources to cut their own prices to a level well below their costs. British Airways, along with most lines, has been making heavy losses on the North Atlantic route. BA had the taxpayers to cover them; Sir Freddie did not. But it took adoption of low fares by the other airlines to weaken his hold. They would be unwise to turn back that clock.

Just as the airlines would be wrong to conclude that cheap fares do not matter, governments would be wrong to conclude that new entrants without massive backing are so unreliable that they ought to be kept out altogether. There is much false concern from critics of Sir Freddie for the small number of people who find that they will not be able to travel to the United States because their flight in the next few days has been cancelled. They would do better to show interest in the millions of people who crossed the Atlantic in recent years and could not have done so without the Laker revolution. The task for government is to make sure that in the future it will be easier for someone to try again to do what Sir Freddie did, not to put new barriers in the way.

There are two particular points which the Government has to consider. One is the role of regulation in the airline industry in Europe. There is too much of it. Established airlines will try to keep the pattern of high fares, poor service and excessive costs by pointing to the Laker failure. Britain has been a force in favour of more competition in Europe, so far with little success. It must go on pressing the case, both in its dealings with other governments and with the European Commission. There is no reason why it should not be cheaper to fly to Athens than to New York other than rules of protection. Their artificiality is shown by the spread of the "bucket-shop" operations in Europe, in which airlines regularly sell seats at prices far below the agreed price while constantly denouncing others for the same activity. Any system which makes people ashamed of cutting prices is a bad system.

The second major policy question for the Government is on the privatization of British airways. This should go ahead as soon as possible. State ownership breeds state regulation. If the taxpayer has to pick up the bill, government will always keep fares high to cut the aid it has to give. If Sir Freddie had not been faced by bottomless state purses he might still be flying today.

The final question which is bound to be raised in the light of his failure is about the very existence of competition as a good thing in itself. Nothing that has happened casts doubt on this. Sir Freddie was the risktaker par excellence. The basic fact about taking risks is that things can go wrong and sometimes will; otherwise there would be no risk. But it is in the interest of all that those risks should be taken; for without them, the horizons of a whole generation who have seen the world shrink would not have been broadened.

MR TEBBIT GIVES OFFENCE

It is the manner as much as the substance that has given offence in Mr Norman Tebbit's replacement of Sir Richard O'Brien as head of the Manpower Services Commission with the younger and more doctrinally acceptable figure of Mr David Young. No one should doubt the Government's right to make the change. Contrary to the all-too prevalent impression that public office is the apolitical prerogative of the great and the good, governments of any hue can and should put into sensitive offices those whom they trust to carry out their policies. The Manpower Services Commission is not only a powerful quango, handling £845m a year of public money, it also stands at the centre of government policy towards the unemployed and towards training for school leavers. It is quite wrong to imply, as the initial response of both the unions and the parliamentary Opposition seemed to imply, that the Employment Secretary is being malicious or improper in exercising his prerogative to decide not to renew the contract of one chairman and to replace him with a man of more sympathetic political leanings.

Nor is it right to suggest, as the unions and Opposition have suggested, that Mr Young is a man whose sole or even main qualification for the job is a close relationship with Ministers of a right wing hue. Ideologue he may be, but he is also a man who has a record of success as an administrator and businessman and some experience of training through his chairmanship of the World Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training.

What is open to criticism, is the manner in which the appointment was made. The job of chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, like that of the chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, has hitherto been regarded as one which needed to be acceptable to both employers and employees. There is nothing sacrosanct about that, But this is an area where there is a real need to gain the support of both sides of industry in developing new initiatives in training, in overhauling the apprenticeship system and finding work-places for school leavers. And it is an area where the unions have attempted to take a genuinely constructive approach to change.

It is not just a question of appearances. It is a question of the attitudes betrayed by manners. There is in Mr Tebbit's approach, as that of the Prime Minister, a touch of deliberate antagonism towards anything which smacks of consensus. In some areas of economic policy that may be right and honest. But in other areas, and particularly that of training, there is little to be gained and much to be lost by abandoning a consensus approach. Sir Richard O'Brien has worked hard and effectively to develop that cooperation and confidence. There is no reason to believe that Mr Young will not be able to do the same. But Mr Tebbit has made it much more difficult for him.

LICENCE LICENSED

Twenty members of Parliament spoke or intervened in the debate the other night about the new clause and schedule the Minister has added to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, a clause empowering local authorities to exercise control over sex shops and sex cinemas. It is notable that no one took up the cudgels on behalf of these wayside flowers of consumerism. No one rolled out the argument that here is a form of enterprise which has sprung up to meet a demand that is not unlawful — not to everyone's taste perhaps, offensive even to some, but squarely inside that enclosure of personal preferences where the law trespasses at peril of looking foolish.

Even those MPs who once upon a time would have carried the colours of libertarianism had other fish to fry or other credentials to establish. Listen to Mr Reg Race (expletives deleted): "Sex shops portray women as simply available for sex, as mindless bodies with no views of their own and no position in life other than as sex objects to be used for the pleasure of men. I reject that completely". The purveyors of sex put to shame by the enemies of sexism, subject for a painting by Boucher. Of course we have not heard from the House of Lords yet. They, who have no constituents, have been the legislative vanguard for the earlier Mr Jenkins's permissive society. But on the evidence of the debate so far a change has overtaken the legislative climate. An alliance between old-fashioned moralists and new-fangled feminists is poised to roll back the frontiers of licentiousness.

All who spoke complimented the Minister for bringing in an apparatus of control, and almost all urged him to make it more restrictive. Particularly they wanted local authorities to be able to say no to sex shops altogether, which the clause as it stands apparently does not allow. Some also blenched at the parliamentary draftsmen's imaginative attempt to encompass the whole range of weird and gruesome implements made available by the sex stockist for the extraction of pleasure. "In this Schedule, 'sex article' means (a) anything made for use in connexion with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging (i) sexual activity; or (ii) *acts of force, restraint, violence or cruelty* which are associated with sexual activity. . . ." The words in italics proved too much for some Members, who saw Parliament being invited to license, and by licensing to approve, the sale of sado-masochistic appliances. What next?

In vain did Mr Timothy Raison, piloting the new clause, plead that the Bill before them was one to augment the powers of local authorities, not to reform the law of obscenity; that the courts could not be depended upon to find such articles obscene and their offer for sale an offence; and that therefore if Parliament scrupled to include the objectionable words it would be conferring powers of control over retail outlets of the sex industry while exempting from control all the most obnoxious specimens. The draftsmen, like Mr Race, are to be asked to kindly express themselves less blatantly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laker enterprise's unequal load

From Mr Martin Drew

Sir, With the calling in of a managing receiver at Laker Airways we witness yet again the unequal treatment between state and private industry. An inefficient state airline, losing millions through overmanning, lumbers on, and an efficient but over-ambitious private airline goes under.

Some of us thought we had elected a Conservative Government to put an end to this unacceptable face of socialism.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN DREW,
24 Hugh Street, SW1.
February 5.

Dry observation

From Mr Gordon Pepper

Sir, Will all the wets, both in the House of Commons and outside, which includes the press, please *read, mark, learn and inwardly digest* what is happening in both Eire and Australia? Short-term *palliatives*, such as a huge Budget deficit in Eire and a wages commission in Australia, have a very nasty habit of having distinctly perverse effects in the longer term.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON PEPPER,
Staddleden,
Sissinghurst,
Cranbrook,
Kent.
February 1.

A diary in question

From Mrs Amanda Cornford

Sir, I entirely agree with Jacqueline Simpson (January 29) that the authenticity of *The Diary of a Farmer's Wife* by Anne Hughes is important, but not that it is just a "pretty fiction".

Jeanne Preston, who compiled the diary, used authentic sources, as the television producer Michael Croucher, who followed on with the research that I initiated, found out. Mrs Preston drew on her own memories of life on a Herefordshire farm in the 1880s and 1890s, her mother's and grandmother's recipe collection and the stories told to her as a child by one Mary Anne Thomas, Anne Hughes's daughter, then in her eighties, who also read to her out of Anne Hughes's diary. This diary, "a thin book with spidery writing", certainly existed and was in Mrs Preston's possession in the early 1940s, but has since vanished.

Anne Hughes's diary as published today, however, is an amalgam put together in the 1930s by Mrs Preston reaching back to her childhood memories of 50 years ago (she was born in 1884) and making use of Anne Hughes's diary and the notes she made as a girl of Mary Anne Thomas's stories, with family recipes included. So as folk history it is certainly worth taking seriously.

Perhaps one day the real diary may be found, and the redstone necklace mentioned in it, which Jeanne Preston sold at a Red Cross sale to raise money for the war effort in the 1940s (it fetched £170). Meanwhile, may readers continue to enjoy this delightful book in the knowledge that it contains much truth mixed with a little fancy.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA CORNFORD,
The Brick House,
Wicken Bonhunt,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
February 2.

Lloyd's Bill

From Sir Peter Vanneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)

Sir, From days as Lord Mayor I take a continuing interest in the invisible earnings of the City of London, based on its internationality, expertise, integrity, and the efficacy of its self-regulation. The current controversy over the Corporation of Lloyd's Bill before the House of Commons, particularly now that I am a member, is a matter of concern.

I well recollect, when I was on the Stock Exchange Council, how one felt one had to look over one's shoulder in disciplining a firm or members in case the parties concerned threatened that this would prejudice some other legal action in which they were involved.

While one was assured that the courts would hold that we acted with privilege, or at least qualified privilege, I venture to think that were the Stock Exchange putting forward a Bill these days it would grasp with relief the opportunity to ensure statutorily that its council was granted freedom from suit in the conduct of its affairs with its members.

Yours truly,
PETER VANNECK,
City Gate House,
Finsbury Square, EC2.
February 4.

From the Secretary to the Chairman of Ways and Means

Sir, The report on page 4 of today's *Times* (February 4) of the debate on the Lloyd's Bill concludes with two references to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill. In fact the Deputy Speaker in the Chair at the time was Mr Bryant Godman Irvine, the First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means.

In view of Mr Weatherill's statement to the House on December 9, 1980 (column 1161 of Hansard) that as a member of Lloyd's he would not take part in any of the parliamentary proceedings relating to the Lloyd's Bill, I would be grateful if this correction could be made.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SANDALL,
Ways and Means Office,
House of Commons.
February 4.

Sources of support for universities

From Professor C. A. Pasternak

Sir, Over the past four months you have published many letters, each of which has in some way criticized the Government for cutting its grant to universities. What is surprising is how many academics admit in private that once the difficult and painful task of reducing the present level of activity has been achieved their universities will emerge as more effective and productive units. No one can deny that there is dead wood and wastage in our centres of higher learning, just as there is in our factories and railways.

Should we actually thank the Government for their draconian measures? To a certain degree, perhaps, and for another reason also. The present cut-back will force those of an ambitious, creative and industrious bent to turn to alternative sources of funding, namely the private sector. The benefits of that lie in the removal of some of the control that Government, through the University Grants Committee, exercises over universities.

I imagine I am not alone in believing that the aim of a university education should be to train a student to think logically. It does not matter too much whether this is achieved through a study of physics, biology, mathematics, philosophy, ancient history or Sanskrit. Vocational training in bridge-building, education, pharmacy or theology is best done instead of, or subsequent to, an undergraduate university course.

Given that undergraduate education is more of a luxury than a necessity, in the sense that music, literature or painting is, it is inappropriate for Government or the UGC to coerce universities into concentrating on one or another discipline. Market forces nowadays make students choose those subjects for which they see an appropriate career at the end.

Of course, the argument between public and private patronage of higher education and research, as of the arts, can be continued at length (and will be, I dare say, in these very columns). But there must be many who share the view that public control of the activities just mentioned has, in several countries during this century, not been an outstanding success.

Where then, in these depressed times, are private funds for education and research to be found? Let me give three examples.

The first is a very modest one, cited merely because of personal involvement. Three years ago at St George's, the Cell Surface Research Fund was set up. The aim was to supplement income received from the national grant-giving agencies for medical research by appealing to industry and the private trusts: one of our reasons was dissatisfaction with the way in which long-term research was being funded (letters to *The Times*, September 13 and 15, 1978). Despite the continually worsening financial situation, the CSRF has managed to fully support one senior, key member of our research team.

The second example concerns self-financing students. Percipient institutions like the London School of Economics, following the earlier example set by the independent University College of Buckingham, have turned to the recruitment of such students in the knowledge that charging a fee for a degree course is neither a crime nor does it necessarily lead to lower standards. Few would argue that the calibre of student at Princeton, Harvard or Yale is any less than that at Berkeley or UCLA.

The third example relates to the rise of biotechnology. There is, I suspect, currently as much financial support for basic research in this area coming from private sources as from governmental ones.

It is right and indeed imperative that Government, through the UGC and the research councils, should continue to provide the bulk of the resources for higher education and research in this country. The Vice-Chancellor of London University, in his article in today's *Times* (February 2), has indicated the breadth of university activities. The point of this letter is to suggest that a positive move towards identifying alternative sources of support may, in the long run, prove beneficial to several aspects of academic life.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. PASTERNAK,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
University of London,
Cranmer Terrace, SW17.
February 2.

From Professor G. L Huxley

Sir, Professor Quirk (feature, February 2) is right to praise the generosity of alumni in the United States towards the colleges they attended. However, it is necessary to remember that the wise laws of that land permit such gifts to be for the most part tax-deductible. Gifts by individuals to British universities have to be made out of taxed income.

Since H M Treasury is now failing to provide enough money to ensure that the country has the university system it deserves, and since the University Grants Committee long ago ceased to be a buffer between scholars and the politicians, there is an urgent need for a change in the tax laws here, if universities are to flourish in independence.

The Chancellor may be said to have a duty in this matter, since at present the hardest blows are being directed at some of the universities with the lowest capitalization. If gifts to universities were made tax-deductible, not only would the socially damaging consequences of the UGC's impositions be softened but also, I am sure, even Professor Quirk would be astonished by the response in these pitiless times.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HUXLEY,
Department of Greek,
The Queen's University of Belfast.

Nature of the SDP

From Mr Evan Luard

Sir, Your juxtaposition of letters about the SDP today (February 2) aptly demonstrates the danger of reaching premature conclusions concerning the type of party it is.

I share the belief of Martin Camroux and Robert Lacey that the SDP, if it is to be an effective force in British politics, must be a party that is deeply committed to creating a much more equal society than we have in Britain today.

Unlike them I still hope and believe it will be such a party. Certainly the fact that it engages in "slick PR" need not prevent it being so. Nor even need a decision (if such there is) to permit the right to private health and education, so long as there is a commitment to devote sufficient resources to public health and education and to integrate the two systems more closely together.

But the main point is that all these matters are still to be decided. It makes little sense to abandon a party on policy grounds at a time when policy is still being formed.

Meanwhile there is some evidence that the party has not become irredeemably right-wing in the other letter you publish today. If SDP members have been consistently voting against the present Government in Parliament, it suggests that it may still be a radical force within our political system: that it is indeed, given its electoral support and the distractions preoccupying the Labour Party, now the basic opposition party in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN LUARD,
35 Observatory St, Oxford.
February 2.

From Lord Young of Dartington

Sir, Lady Jeger asks (February 2) what Tawney would have thought of the Tawney Society. I don't think he would have joined; he was a very modest man.

Michael Foot says (February 4) that we have debased his name. I, on the contrary, believe he would have approved (if not wholly) of the SDP and hence of the Tawney Society, which is a research body formed in the interests of the new party.

In his essay on "Social Democracy in Britain", which appeared in 1949 in the *Christian Demand for Social Justice*, Tawney said that social democrats stood for "a society which values public welfare above private display; which, though relatively poor, makes the first charge on its small resources the establishment for all of the conditions of a vigorous and self-respecting existence; which gives a high place amongst those conditions to the activities of the spirit and the services which promote them; which holds that the most important aspect of human beings is not the external differences of income and circumstances that divide them, but the common community that unites them and which strives, therefore, to reduce such differences to the position of insignificance that rightly belongs to them".

It is because I adhere to democratic socialism of the Tawney kind, and because Labour governments have so signally failed to move towards it, that I joined the SDP and now the society whose name I suggested, not to debase but to honour him.

Yours faithfully,
YOUNG OF DARTINGTON,
Tawney Society,
18 Victoria Park Square, E2.

'In vitro' risks

From Ms S. Porter-Williams

Sir, In *The Times* of January 28, you report that Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, has called for a moratorium on test-tube baby work until its ethics have been more widely discussed. His reasons are that he thinks that *in vitro* fertilization may increase the risk of congenital abnormalities, and that simply being infertile does not justify the risk, since "no one dies of infertility".

I disagree with Dr Thomas. Whether there is an unusual risk of congenital abnormalities can only be known when there is enough experience of the technique to apply statistical tests to the results. Even then, I feel that the choice of whether to take the risk should rest with the prospective parents, just as it does when there is a risk of a congenital abnormality through a normal birth. As regards his last comment, medicine is concerned not only with the posponement of death but also with the quality of life, which includes the ability to raise a family.

A moratorium would mean a delay in the development and use of the technique. It would also mean a lost last chance to thousands of women who cannot afford to wait to start a family.

The issue is due to be debated by the British Medical Association's central ethical committee on February 10. Previous advances in medical practice, from anaesthetics onwards, have been pushed forward against the resistance of the profession. I hope that this time they will not try to stop progress.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA PORTER-WILLIAMS,
Green Haven,
Halfway Lane,
Dunchurch,
Rugby.
January 31.

Fears for West End theatres

From Mr Paul Eddington

Sir, A property battle appears to threaten a large number of West End theatres following the retirement of Lord Grade, and whatever the short-term outcome in this particular case the threat must increase in direct ratio to every rise in the value of prime sites.

The view of most of us working in the entertainment industry is that its health largely depends on that of a live, flourishing, non-subsidized "commercial" theatre, and my own view is that the basis of such a theatre can only be made secure by the removal of the buildings themselves from the market place.

Presumably such a step would require legislation, but I feel means must be found if we are not to see the enterprise of some of the world's most courageous impresarios ossify into yet another row of office blocks.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL EDDINGTON,
as from: 22 Grafton Street, SW1.
February 3.

Civil Service pay

From Dr Roderick Beaton

Sir, Your tetchy leader this morning (February 3) on the subject of Civil Service and public sector pay unthinkingly repeats a dangerous nonsense which the present Government seems to have inherited, perhaps also unthinkingly, from Labour. This is that all the "workers" in an "industry" must be equally rewarded or punished in terms of pay, regardless of the skills they possess and the services they are actually paid to perform.

Thus your leader-writer seems to despise equally as "civil servants" the often under-qualified and inexperienced individuals that government departments, like the other large concerns, seem to employ to fend off the inquiring public, and the highly-qualified men and women who run these government departments and bear the responsibility for translating government policy (of whatever government) into practical action.

Presumably the Treasury, in drawing up the document which has so incensed *The Times*, has recognized that if officials of the calibre and integrity required to carry out its unloved tasks are to be recruited and maintained, they will have to be paid at an appropriate level. It is time that *The Times*, and indeed this Government, realized that the financial gains of industry and commerce are in themselves of no value whatever to the community as a whole, without the collection and distribution of taxes and the maintenance of the many services which in turn enable industries to operate profitably. We have not yet heard of the "privatization" of tax collection, or of the preparation of the Budget being farmed out to (properly disinterested of course) private consultants.

Or does *The Times* really believe that Sir Geoffrey does it all himself?

Yours etc,
RODERICK BEATON,
University of London,
King's College,
Strand, WC2.

Women in orders

From the Chaplain of St John's College, Oxford

Sir, Caroline Moorehead (*The Times*, January 25) draws attention to the anomalous position in England of the Rev Elizabeth Canham and other validly ordained priests of the Anglican communion who happen to be women.

But the Eucharist is not the sacrament where the General Synod's ban on Elizabeth Canham's exercise of her ministry in England arises most acutely. Like many priests, I always make a practice of stopping at serious road accidents. What if in such or similar circumstances Elizabeth Canham was asked for absolution by someone critically ill? Is she to deny the penitent the gift of grace simply because she is on the wrong side of the Atlantic?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. J. PHILLIPS,
St John's College,
Oxford.
February 1.

Lessons for Lutyens

From Dr Priscilla Metcalf

Sir, It should *not* be a lesson from Lutyens that "the oddity of the chequer-board housing in Westminster is rather admired" (letter, February 2). Some of us who live in better-designed housing just around the corner from that close set of barracks with their superimposed inhumane facing, do not admire it and even think it shows a contempt for the masses, whom Lutyens knew nothing about. Only historians who live in their own houses admire it.

Charles McKean was right. Imagine looking at chequer-board every time you look out of the window or walk down the street!

Yours indignantly,
PRISCILLA METCALF,
37 Gainsborough House,
Erasmus Street, SW1.

Proper names

Professor M. A. Screech

Sir, I have just received a letter from a cultural attaché addressed to a colleague named "Dr Honoris Causa", who is, allegedly, an "honarary research fellow" in this department. Does anyone know who she is?

Yours truly,
M. A. SCREECH,
Department of French Language and Literature,
University College of London,
Gower Street, WC1.

SOCIAL NEWS

Today is the thirtieth anniversary of the accession of the Queen.

The President of the United States is 71 today.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Home Office to mark the bicentenary on March 25.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new development in the Chapter Mews at Windsor on March 31.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will open the new buildings of St Gemma's Hospice, Harrogate Road, Leeds, on March 30.

The Prince of Wales, as patron, will open the "Vikings in England" exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum, York, on March 30.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will visit College Hall and the Students' Union on March 15.

Forthcoming marriages

Flight Lieutenant M. K. C. Allen, RAF, and Flight Lieutenant S. B. Denney, PMRAFNS

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Professor and Mrs K. W. Allen, of Boar's Hill, Oxford, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. N. Denney, of Whinflower Hall, Malton, North Yorkshire.

Mr E. Buckhalter and Miss A. J. Shaw

The engagement is announced between Edwin, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Buckhalter, of Dulwich, London, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. V. Shaw, of Shenstone, Staffordshire.

Mr A. L. H. Smith and Miss C. S. Abbott

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Dr A. L. and Mrs G. J. P. Smith, of Bromborough, Merseyside, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Abbott, of Swanage, Dorset.

Mr P. R. Wetton and Miss T. J. Wrinch

The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs F. W. Wetton, of Cheadle Hulme, and Jenny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. P. Wrinch, of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Dr W. F. J. Harkness and Princess Philippa Lubomirska

The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Harkness, of Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth, Devon, and Philippa, second daughter of Prince and Princess Marek Lubomirski, of Ecuires, Montreuil-sur-Mer, France.

Mr A. Narang and Miss J. M. Renton

The engagement is announced between Arun, only son of Mr and Mrs Hans Narang, of New York, and Jean, only daughter of the late Colonel Alec Renton and Mrs Susan Renton, of Glen Douglas, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

Mr M. E. Lazar and Miss C. E. Asser

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr L. Lazar, of Brighton, Sussex, and Mrs R. H. Lazar, of Highgate, London, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. K. Asser, of Tadmarton, Oxfordshire.

Mr R. A. Dalzell and Miss S. A. Peters

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mrs E. M. Dalzell, of Mayfield, Sussex, and the late Mr Douglas Dalzell, and Sally, only daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. L. Peters and Mrs J. W. Eagle, of The Retreat, Docking, Norfolk.

Mr C. Gotting and Miss J. E. V. Roberts

The engagement is announced between Christoph, younger son of the late Dr Franz Götting and Mrs Maria Gotting, of Wiesbaden, West Germany, and Elaine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. V. Roberts, of Michelmersh, Hampshire.

Marriage

Major-General W. Reynell Taylor and Mrs R. Gardner

The marriage took place on January 29 between Major-General W. Reynell Taylor, HQ BAOR, and Mrs Rosemary Gardner (nee Breed), of Chiswick, London, and Nicosia, Cyprus.

Service luncheon

Royal Corps of Transport

Major-General W. M. Allen, Director General of Transport and Movements, held a luncheon yesterday at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot, in honour of present and past TA Colonels of the Royal Corps of Transport. The principal guests were:

Lieutenant-General Sir Roland Guy, Major-General W Bate, Major-General A C S Boswell, Colonel J R B Smith, Colonel C Price, Colonel P D Baldry, Colonel C G Dickie, Colonel G T Spate, Colonel W P Hewells, Colonel A B Fairweather and Colonel C N Mearns.

Dinners

Master Tailors' Benevolent Association

The Master Tailors' Benevolent Association held their festival dinner at the Europa Hotel on February 4, 1982. The principal guests were Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Mr Robert Hardy. Others present were Mr Robert J. Bright, appeal chairman, and Mr F. G. Welchman, president.

Dramatists' Club

Mr Sheridan Morley and Miss Athene Seyler were guests of honour at a dinner of the Dramatists' Club held last night at the Garrick Club. Sir Ronald Millar, president of the club, was in the chair, and Mr Peter Barkworth was also present.

Service dinner

Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were guests of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club at dinner at Armoury House last night. Major J. P. Sworder, president, was in the chair. Colonel the Rev K. C. Oliver, the Lord Mayor, Mr R. Vergette, and Colonel the Earl of Avon also spoke.

University news

Liverpool

Appointments

Senior lecturers: P Harker, MB, BS (London) (child health); C A Hart, BSc, MB, BS, PhD (London) (medical microbiology); C S E Dowd, MB, ChB, MCh, Orth (Liv) (orthopaedic and accident surgery); S J Leinster, BSc, MB, ChB (Edin) (surgery).

Stirling

Professor Duncan Timms, of the department of sociology, and Professor James Trainer, of the department of German, have been appointed deputy principals until July 31, 1984, and December 31, 1984 respectively.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Baker, Mr Stanley Frederick Harold, of Banstead, Surrey £222,108

Bowker, Mr Ronald Scott Lawrance, of Winchester, solicitor £724,285

Collinson, Mr Ronald George, of Skirlaugh, North Humberside, chartered accountant £294,710

Johnson, Mrs Hylda May, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey £250,907

Loader, Mr Eric Charles, of Chacewater, Truro £239,298

Peat, Mr Frank Cadman, of Beighton, Sheffield £340,583

Birthdays

Mr Fred Trueman, the former cricketer, who is 51 today.

TODAY: Mr Claudio Arrau, 79; Sir Denys Buckley, 76; Mr Peter Cadbury, 64; Sir Robert Erskine-Hill, 65; Sir John Gardener, 85; Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, 85; Mr Louis Heren, 63; Mr J. E. C. Hill, 70; Professor Nevil Johnson, 53; Mr Patrick Macnee, 60; the Rev E. Garth Moore, 76; Mr Denis Norden, 60; Mr Manuel Orantes, 33; Lord Roskill, 71; M François Truffaut, 50; Mr Keith Waterhouse, 53; Lord Woolley, 77; Mr Billy Wright, 58.

TOMORROW: Mr Arthur Bottomley, 75; Miss Dora Bryan, 58; Professor Henry Clifford Darby, 73; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 72; the Earl of Harewood, 59; Mr Peter Jay, 45; Lord Keith of Kinkel, 60; Sir John Leahy, 54; Mr George Mosley, 57; Sir Michael Newton, 59; Sir Geoffrey Peacock, 62; Mr R. W. Watson, 56; Sir Brian Windeyer, 78.

The politics of covenants and alliances

It has been intriguing to notice over the past months how political leaders have been using what would normally be regarded as ecclesiastical language to describe their varying policies and types of organization. Terms like sect, church, dogma, dissent, establishment have been constantly used in the attempt to define the position of one party as opposed to another or to express the ideal which a particular organization seeks to espouse. In the light of this phenomenum it has been interesting to consider how far the four parties in contemporary British politics correspond to the major divisions in the Western Church since the period of the Reformation.

First there has been the traditional Catholic, standing firmly for authority and for the maintenance of an ordered system of faith and morals, this system being defined by written codes. In practice there has tended to be some flexibility in interpreting laws and some leniency in their administration. But in theory all the members of the Church owe primary obedience to the rules set forth by those representing divine authority for the due ordering of life in society.

In complete contrast there have been sectarian groups, each claiming to be Christian but each determining its own fundamental tenets and pattern of social behaviour by the corporate decisions of its members. Normally such a sect has appealed to the Bible in framing its rules and doctrines but in so doing it has paid little attention to the history of interpretation or to the views of others claiming Christian allegiance. The sect has as its central concern the achievement of a particular goal for the benefit of its members and all efforts are concentrated in this direction. The Anabaptists were a famous example in the sixteenth century: there have been innumerable examples since.

Third there has been what one might call the liberal Catholic, striving for the wholeness of the social order but recognizing the wide variety of offices and functions which must exist within any healthy organism. The central concern of the Church, as of all organisms is growth: in knowledge and in quality of daily living. Further, the chief means for the attainment of this growth is through embracing the available means of grace and through participating in the exercise of Christian charity. No blueprint can be regarded as finally determinative. Within a worshipping fellowship, striving towards the attainment of ultimate values, the body corporate lives and grows.

Fourth, there has been what I will call the liberal Protestant, seeking to bring into being a better social of order by vigorously opposing blatant evils and working for the common good. The Scriptures provide invaluable guidelines on matters of faith and conduct but no interpretations can be regarded as of final authority. There must ever be openness to the chalenge of a new situation. It is through imaginative action that evil can be overcome and new good created.

The first and second of these options have appealed to multitudes over the past four centuries. They display a single-mindedness and a definiteness which seem to promise immediate results. But do they allow for living growth and for strategies adaptable to the continuing struggle between good over evil, two objects which were central in Jesus' own mission and which the New Testament holds forth as basic for the Christian Church? Crises in the world may pull to rigidities in one direction or the other: can a partnership in the middle be sustained?

At the moment a key-word in ecclesiastical circles is covenant. In political circles it is alliance. Historical records show that covenants, however solemnly made, can be broken. The same is true of political alliances. The temptation to seek greater power by concentrating on a single interest is always present.

Yet, in spite of all failures, is there anything finer in human experience than commitment to partnerships in which neither unit is swallowed up by the other but in which, through a continuing process of give and take, creative growth is effected and some victory for righteousness is won?

F. W. Dillistone

Marguerite Porter, of the Royal Ballet, playing the leading role in "Swan Lake", which opens tonight at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Italian dealers send picture prices soaring

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Italian dealers competing at Christie's yesterday sent prices for paintings by minor Italian nineteenth-century artists to new heights. A Venetian genre scene of 1886, "Opening the present," by a painter called Cesare Laurenti, made £4,860. Christie's had estimated £600-£800.

On a second painting even the artist's name had defeated Christie's. It was catalogued as "I. Giardelli*" since that signature appears on it; the asterisk indicates that Christie's had been unable to trace his forename. A small work on board, it depicts "Fishing boats offshore in a calm" and was sold for £4,104 (estimate £300-£400). A "Mountainous coastal landscape," by Silvio Poma, made £3,780 (estimate £1,000-£1,500).

A picture sale held by Phillips in Chester yesterday scored a new auction record price for a watercolour by Albert Goodwin. Entitled "West Indian Harbour", it is dated 1911 and was sold for £12,100 (estimate £2,000-£3,000) to a London dealer. Although Goodwin travelled widely, West Indian views are rare; only two others are recorded, according to the auctioneers.

In London Phillips set another auction record, this time for a silver wine label. The label is modelled as the arms of Perth, surmounting an oval plaque engraved "port". It dates from about 1800 and bears the mark of Robert Keay, of Perth. The price was £1,430 (estimate £500-£600).

The star turn in Sotheby's modern print sale was Renoir's colour lithograph, "Le Chapeau Epingle", which sold for £12,650 (estimate £9,000-£11,000). Sotheby's auction of cheaper carpets was 10 per cent unsold, a low figure by recent standards.

Diploma for 'Times' writer

A competition run by the Council of Europe to promote the different aspects of European cooperation such as human rights and the environment has been won by Mrs Ursula Rellstae-Haller for her articles in the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* and in magazines.

The second prize went to Mr Acw Van Der Vet, a dutch journalist, and the third prize was won jointly by Mrs Josiane Kartheiser, of *Tageblatt Fur Letzebuerg*, Luxembourg, and Mr Peter Nyhus, of the *Ostlands Posten, Norway*.

Diplomas were awarded to Mrs Gabrielle Lefevre, of *La Cite*, Belgium. Mr Alfred Weber, for a Westdeutscher Rundfunk broadcast in Germany. Mr John Young of *The Times*, and Mr Peter Arnold, of the *Basler Zeitung*, Switzerland.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Douglas French to be a special adviser to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He succeeds Mr Peter Cropper.

Dr Michael Illston, deputy director of Hatfield Polytechnic, to be director from next May.

25 years ago

From The Times of Tuesday, February 5 1957

King Saud to double army

Washington, Feb 4.—Saudi Arabia, from all accounts will receive the arms she seeks from the United States in return for a five-year extension of the agreement governing American use of the Dhahran air base. Such an arrangement has, needless to say, been one of the more open aims of King Saud's visit to Washington. He is remaining unofficially at Blair House for a few days, and all that remains apparently is to settle the terms of the bargain — a matter, it seems, of bazaar tactics.

Washington is gratified at all events to find that the king is not using the familiar persuasion of seeking alternative shipments from Russia, with which Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations. He made it clear to President Eisenhower and his advisers from the outset that he wanted American arms; and present indications are that he would settle for equipment and instruction to double the strength of his existing army of about 150,000 men.

Services tomorrow: Septuagesima

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8; M, 10.30 Jubilate and Te Deum: Bernard Naylor (The St Paul's Service). Archdeacon of London; HC 11.30. Stanford in C (gf) Introit. Great and Marvellous are thy works (Boyce). E 3.15. Mag and Nunc dimittis (S S Wesley in E). A. The heavens are telling (Haydn) The Creation. The Rector of Hackney.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8; M and S 10.30. Britten in C. Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn). Canon Knapp-Fisher; HC 11.40 (said); E and S 3.00 Rubbra in A flat. Lord, who hast made us for thine own (Holst). Rev Gilling; Organ recital 6.05. E. 6.30. Rev. C. Taylor.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: HC 9. Cathedral Eucharist 11. Darke in F. A. The rosy sequence (plainsong) When to the temple Mary (Eccard): Canon Landreth. Cathedral Evensong 3.30. Walmisley in D Minor. A. Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley). Canon Penwarden.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: HC, 8.30: Sung Eucharist 11.15 Missa Brevis (Berkeley). Ven E. J. G. Ward.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): 11.15 Sung Eucharist (Stanford in B flat). Canon Young.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich (public welcomed). HC, 8.30. 11. Parish Communion, Rev J Oliver; A. From all that dwell (Walmisley).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: M 11. Rev. P. G. Whiting: HC, 12 noon.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: HC, 8.30; M. 11.15. Canon James.

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL (public invited, entry via Lincoln's Inn Gateway): 11.30. Morning Prayer and sermon. "A Psalm of Praise" John Travers. Rev F. V. A. Boyse. Organ Voluntary: Carillon-Sortie (Henri Muler).

TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): HC, 9.15 M. 11 Jub. Weelkes (short service). A. Ave Verum (Philips). The Chaplain.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC, 8.30; MP, 11.15 followed by holy communion to Alcock in B flat. Jubilate Deo, Rhodes in G. A. In the beginning God created the Heav'n and the earth. (Haydn). The Master.

ST CLEMENTS DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC, 8.30 and 12.15: M and S. A. Awake us, Lord and hasten (Bach). Rev O. Ruddle.

CHAPEL ROYAL, HAMPTON COURT PALACE (public welcomed): HC, 8.30: Sung Eucharist 11. Stanford in C, and Missa de Angelis, Motet — This is the hour of banquet (Cyril Taylor); E, 3.30: Noble in B Minor. A. Lord, thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Sung Eucharist 11, Rev P Delaney.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place: 11 Prebendary Michael Baughen. 6.30, Rev M. Lawson.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: LM, 8 and 5.15 M. 10.20 HM, 11. Rev J W Holden: Miss A Brevis, Lennox Berkeley. Solemn Evensong and Benediction, 6. Rev C J Somers-Edgar (Bairstow in G).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HC 8.15, 11. Sung Eucharist. Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn). Teach me, O Lord (Byrd). Rev Dr A. W. Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: HC 8, HC 11. Rev J Collins: E 6.30. Rev P Whitworth.

HOLY TRINITY WITH ALL SAINTS, Prince Consort Road, SW7: HC 8.30. Choral Mattins and Eucharist 11. A De Profundis Clamavi (Morley). Rev R Browne.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street (Sloane Sq Tube): HC 8.30, HC 10.30 Canon Roberts HC 12.10.

ST ALBANS, Holborn: SM, 9.30; HM 11. Father Gaskell. Mass à 4 (Monteverdi). Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), 5.30 LM.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: Family Communion 9.45. Norman Ingram-Smith; Morning Service 11.15. The Vicar: Holy Communion 12.30. Choral Evensong 4.15. Evening Service 6.30. Rev C Hedley; Holy Communion 7.30.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: HC, 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11. EP 6.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: Sung Eucharist and Sermon, Rev C Taylor.

ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY (AD 1123): HC, 9; Choral Eucharist with Baptism, 11. Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestina). A O sacrum convivium (Messiaen). The Rector; E 6.30. Tallis (Dorian). A O Lord, make thy servant, Elizabeth (Byrd) The Dean of Westminster.

ST BRIDES, Fleet Street: HC, 8.30; 11 Choral Matins and Eucharist. Prebendary Dewi Morgan; 6.30 Haydn's Creation.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: HC, 8.30: Sung Eucharist, 11. Blake in D.A. O God that no time (Peerson). The Rector

ST JAMES'S, Garlick Hill (City): HC, 10.30 (Sung) Prebendary D W C Mossman.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, HC, 8 and 12.30: Sung Eucharist, 9.30. M. 11.15. E. 6.30.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM, 8.00am, 9.45am, 7.00pm; HM 11.00am, Fr J Gilling, Mass for 4 voices, (Byrd). O Sing joyfully, (Batten). Venite comedite, (Byrd): E and SB, 6.15pm.

ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC, 8 and 11: Miss Primrose Cooper: Maria - Zellermesse (Haydn). Ave Maria (Mendelssohn). 6.30. Miss Primrose Cooper, Ministry of Healing, Laying on of Hands.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC, 8 and 9. Solemn Eucharist, 11 Latham in A minor, Rev. A. C. C. Courtauld.

ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: 11, Rev J. Walden; 6.30 Rev. J. Spence.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Chelsea: HC, 8, 12.15, M.P. 11. E.P. 6.30. Prebendary Parker

ST STEPHEN'S Gloucester Road: LM 8.9: HM 11. Service in c (Henry Purcell). Prebendary Herbert Moore: E and B 6, Rev R. Browne.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: SM, 11. Canon Ffrench-Beytagh. Plainsong Mass. Dulcis Christe (Grancini).

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Pont Street: 11am and 6.30pm Rev Dr J. Fraser McLuskey.

CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland) Russell Street, Covent Garden: 11.15 Rev J. Miller Scott; 12.20 HC, 6.30 Rev G. Melvyn Wood.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses at 7, 8, 9, 10.30 (sung), Krönungsmesse (Mozart). O sing into the Lord (Tomkins). Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart), 12 noon, 5.30 and 7. Vespers and Benediction 3.30 Magnificat Primi Toni (Palestrina). O Salutaris hostia (in F) (Elgar).

THE ORATORY, SW7: HM 11. Missa Ut Re Mi (Palestrina): LM 7, 8, 9, 10, 12.30, 4.30, 7; vesp ut flos (Crivelli) 3.30.

ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: SM, 11. Mass of St Brigid (Campbell-Watson) Exurge gloria Mea (Michael Wise).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place (Holborn Circus): 11. Sung Latin. Third Mass (Guilmant). Adoramus Te Christe (Gasparini).

ST PATRICK'S, Soho Square: SM, 6 pm. Mass in D Minor (Webbe), Perfice Gressus (Webbe).

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: SM (Latin), 10.45 Missa Mille Regretz (Morales); O Sacrum Convivium (Croce).

THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 11 (Sung Latin Mass), 12, 4.15, 6.15.

REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: (United Reformed). Tavistock Place: 11 am: Rev W Workman; 6.30 pm Rev B Hyam.

ST JOHN'S WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Presbyterian-/Congregationalist), Lord's Roundabout, NW8: 11 am Rev J Miller.

CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: 11 and 6.30. Rev Dr R John Tudor.

WEST LONDON MISSION, Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 11 and 6.30. John Richardson.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct: EC: 11 and 6.30, Rev Dr B Johanson.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate: 11 and 6.30. Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: 11. Rev Dr R C Gibbons.

Correction

Headings on one of the tables which accompanied the review of last year's rainfall, published on Thursday were misplaced. The correct table is reproduced below.

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Monthly rainfall is shown in the following table in millimetres and as a percentage of average for the month.

	England and Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	mm	%	mm	%	mm	%
January	58	67	156	114	101	97
February	53	81	91	87	68	91
March	153	255	152	165	128	183
April	64	110	33	37	47	69
May	91	136	87	96	141	193
June	49	80	103	112	88	111
July	55	75	92	82	78	84
August	48	53	52	40	43	42
September	141	170	235	170	175	164
October	124	149	218	146	158	148
November	69	71	216	152	94	92
December	94	104	87	56	94	83

OBITUARY

MR GEORGE A. RIDING

Former headmaster of Aldenham

Mr George A Riding, who died on February 3 at the age of 93, was headmaster of Aldenham School from 1933 to 1949. Earlier he had been headmaster of Warwick School from 1928 to 1933.

The son of Daniel A Riding, he was born on April, 1 1888 and educated at Manchester Grammar School, where he was a scholar, the University of Manchester where he took honours in English language and literature, and New College, Oxford where he took a first in modern languages (French and German); this was in 1921 after his war service in the Northumberland Fusiliers during which he was wounded. While up at Oxford he was awarded the Heath Harrison Travelling scholarship and was president of the university French Club.

He taught at Penarth County School and Mill Hill before the war and afterwards spent the years 1921-28 as Sixth Form Master at Rugby. It was while he was at Rugby that he was appointed headmaster of Warwick School. He was keenly interested in Church affairs and had sat in the House of Laity of the Church Assembly and later presided over the Cornwall Modern Churchmen's Union. For some years he was on the Schools Broadcasting Council. He was active in Liberal politics in Cornwall in his retirement.

He married Aideen Maud, daughter of T. W. Rolleston, and granddaughter of the Rev. Stopford Brooke. They had two sons.

ALEX HARVEY

Alex Harvey, the Scottish rock singer, died following a heart attack in Belgium on February 4; he had been a familiar figure on the European circuit for more than two decades.

Born in Glasgow on February 5, 1935, he led the Alex Harvey Soul Band between 1958 and 1966, was a member of the pit band for the show *Hair* in the late 1960s, and in 1972 formed the Sensational Alex Harvey Band, which went on to achieve considerable success before its dissolution about five years later.

Although his roots were in rock and the blues, his most popular work seemed to owe as much to Jacques Brel and to Brecht and Weill; he was also noted for the extravagant theatricality of his shows.

After a period of inactivity following the death of his manager in 1976, Harvey had recently resumed his performing career; his death followed a European tour.

LORD RITCHIE-CALDER

Paul Rotha writes:

It was while making a documentary film about the National Electricity Grid, *The Face of Britain*, in 1935, that Ritchie-Calder and I found a common aim in the promotion of social progress in science and the social progress of the documentary film. Therafter, he took an active part in our films and sometimes, but not always, accepted a screen-credit as Consultant. In 1936, he was one of a small group of us who made the notorious and controversial Peace Film.

In 1942 the Ministry of Information asked the Yorkshire author, the late Eric Knight, to script a film about the use of food in Britain sent by the USA under Lease-Lend, with Ritchie-Calder as consultant. Ritchie Calder brought us together with the great nutritionist, John Boyd-Orr. The result was *World of Plenty*, which was shown all over the neutral and Allied world as the first film to face up to post-war problems. It was still showing in the USA and West Germany a year or two back.

We followed it in 1947 with *The World is Rich*, again dealing with the world's food problems and again with Boyd-Orr's forceful screen appearance. Both films won international awards. Between them, *Total War in Britain*, brought to the screen the Government's White Paper on Britain's economic war effort. It was, and still is, widely shown abroad. Ritchie-Calder was also the consultant on *World Without End*, made for Unesco in 1953-54.

But it is not only for his contribution to documentary film work that he is to be remembered. During the first Blitz on the East End of London, it was he who blazoned the newspapers with the fact that the Front Line was no longer in Europe but in London's East End. His despatches in the *Daily Herald* and the *New Statesman* made history when no other journalist ventured that far from Fleet Street. His pieces were later collected in *Carry On, London!* (English Universities Press, 1941), one of the most accurate and vibrant books about that period of Britain's embattlement.

PROFESSOR P. S. FLORENCE

D.E.C.E. writes:

Your obituary of Philip Sargant Florence did not perhaps do full justice to two aspects of his later life and work.

When he was Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science in Birmingham, and in the last years of his professorship there, he was able to put into practice a long-cherished dream: to establish the teaching of the social sciences in such a way as to transcend departmental barriers, and to strengthen the link between theory and practice.

To this end he recruited, often against opposition from colleagues, men and women were not only promising in their own speciality, but could be relied upon to talk to each other, and to review constantly and collectively, the policy implications of their research. (The work Florence had master-minded for the West Midland Group which you mentioned served as the prototype for this sort of activity).

Though a committed Fabian, Florence, like Harold Laski, did not confine his choices to politically like-minded people. Thus, in a very short space of time, Birmingham teaching and research was led by lecturers of high calibre, ranging from Alan Walters through Michael Beesley to Frank Hahn and A. H. Halsey. The experiment succeeded, but it did not long survive Florence's own tenure; departmentalism and ivory tower attitudes re-asserted themselves, and his dozen or 15 appointments were re-deployed to reach the top of their profession elsewhere. But he had proved his point.

Secondly, Florence's planning activities did not cease with the end of the West Midland Group's work. At an age when most retired academics would rest on their laurels and allow their stances to ossify, Florence helped to launch a new planning movement which in some ways bucked the orthodoxies of his former associates. As the first chairman (and later president) of the Midlands New Towns Society he led the movement away from excessive concentration on re-building the old urban core towards a wider view of the need to re-structure the industrial and residential pattern of the region with the main emphasis on the preservation of the Green Belt and the building of new towns.

Telford and Redditch testify to the success of his efforts to modify the official view. He was also active in the Town and Country Planning Association, serving on some of its more important policy-making committees — his interests were not only regional but national and indeed world-wide.

Law Report February 6 1982 Chancery Division

No interest relief on overseas house

Ockenden (Inspector of Taxes) v Mackley

Before Mr Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered February 5]

Bank interest paid by a United Kingdom resident on a loan that he obtained to purchase a flat in Gibraltar could not be deducted for tax purposes from the rental income he received for letting the flat even though that income was never remitted to the UK.

Mr Justice Nourse so held in allowing an appeal by the Crown from a decision of Shoreham General Commissioners who had determined that the interest paid by the taxpayer, Mr John Francis Mackley, to Barclays Bank International Ltd qualified for deduction in computing his Case V, Schedule D income.

In 1975 the taxpayer, a United Kingdom resident, purchased 14 Marina Court, Gibraltar, the bulk of the purchase price coming from a bank loan. The flat was furnished and let by the taxpayer through managing agents in Gibraltar. The rental income was not remitted to the United Kingdom, being used to reduce the bank loan.

The taxpayer appealed to the commissioners against three assessments to the tax for 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 each in an amount of £2,600. They upheld his argument that the interest was deductible by virtue of the provisions of section 122(1) (a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Section 109(2) of the 1970 Act charges tax under Case V of Schedule D "in respect of income arising from possessions out of the United Kingdom."

Section 122(1) provides that that tax shall be "computed on the full amount of the income arising in the year preceding the year of assessment whether the income has been or will be received in the United Kingdon or not, subject in the case of income not received in the United Kingdom — (a) to the same deductions and allowances as if it had been so received . . .".

Mr John Mummery for the Crown; Mr G. R. A. Argles for the taxpayer.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the case was thought by the Crown to be a test case on section 122(1), and so to a limited extent it still might be; but the substantive argument of the taxpayer was now different to that advanced before the commissioners.

The Inland Revenue's practice in cases of this sort was to allow deduction of expenses such as rates, insurance and agents' fees but to disallow deduction of interest on a loan for an actual purchase on the ground that it was an expense incurred not on maintaining but on acquiring the property.

The taxpayer had not encouraged his Lordship to decide the case on the ground on which the commissioners had done. However, it should be said that a consideration of the earlier legislation strongly suggested that the deductions and allowances available under section 122(1)(a) were not those available under Cases I and II (tax in respect of trades and professions).

The taxpayer's new contention involved deducting the interest before the "full amount of the income" referred to in section 122 (1) was arrived at. It was said that that was something which had to be done on ordinary commercial principles, the payment of interest having been linked to the receipt of the rents so as to be part of the cost of earning them.

But clearly the taxpayer was not carrying on a trade of letting the flat. Moreover it was clear that the "possession" for Case V purposes was the flat: that was an asset and the rents were the income which it produced. Thus it was difficult to see how one could talk of ordinary commercial principles in the first place.

It would be more correct to contend that the interest was deductible on ordinary principles of good housekeeping. That brought one back to section 122(1), albeit for a different purpose. And in the end it seemed that the Crown's simple claim that paragraph (a) did not permit deductions of annual interest of any description because paragraph (c) of that sub-section expressly permitted deduction of one limited category of such interest and thus impliedly disallowed the deduction of any other category, was correct.

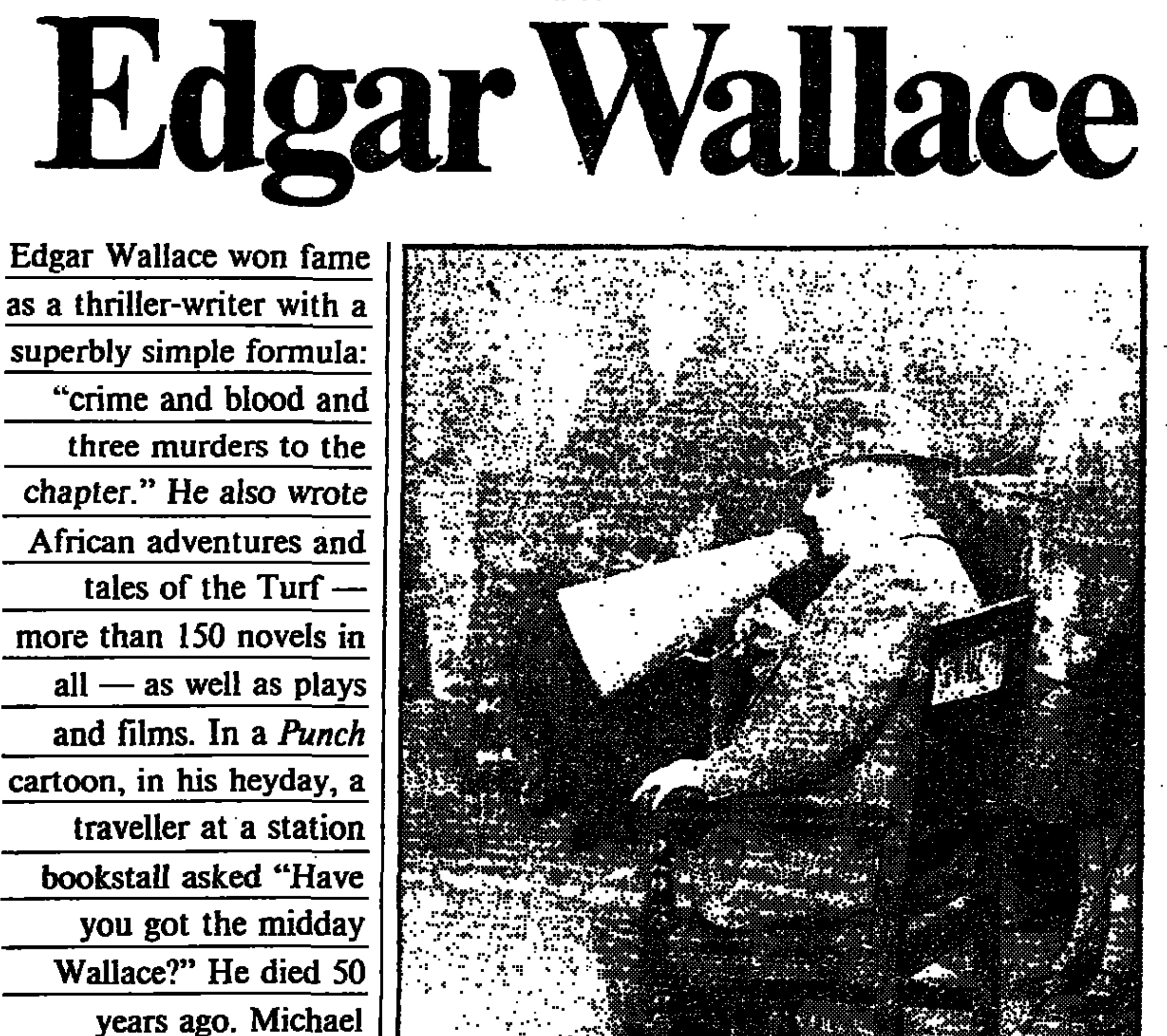
His Lordship expressed sympathy with the taxpayer and those in the same position, because it appeared likely that if the flat had been in Sussex, the recent restrictions on relief for loans for the purchase or improvement of land would not have prevented the interest from being deductible, provided that the material requirements of the 1972 and 1974 Finance Acts were satisfied. However it was clear that the statutory provisions did not permit deductions in the case of foreign property and that the appeal had to be allowed.

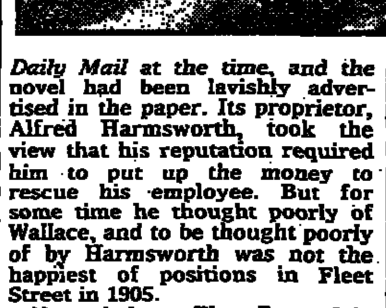
Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Griffith, Smith, Dodd & Riley, Brighton.

Saturday Review

The exploits of Edgar Wallace

Edgar Wallace won fame as a thriller-writer with a superbly simple formula: "crime and blood and three murders to the chapter." He also wrote African adventures and tales of the Turf — more than 150 novels in all — as well as plays and films. In a *Punch* cartoon, in his heyday, a traveller at a station bookstall asked "Have you got the midday Wallace?" He died 50 years ago. Michael Innes, master of the classic detective story, recalls and reassesses him.





Far left: the former Billingsgate street urchin with the traditional symbol of success, in Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, 1931, and on the set of Red Aces at Beaconsfield.
Left: Bela Lugosi in Dark Eyes of London, 1939.

A bottle of whisky had been placed on a small table beside the speaker by hosts unaware that what he might have preferred was constant fill-ups of strong sweet tea. He did justice to the whisky nevertheless, and I see the bottle as empty by the time he had finished talking. This may be a trick of memory: it was more than fifty years ago, after all. What I am certain of is an impression of extreme exhaustion held at bay by an iron will. The heavy eye-lids drooped more and more alarmingly over the long cigarette holder, and he was as pallid as any of the innumerable corpses that clutter up his plays and novels.

At the same time he seemed a man much at his ease, dissimulating without difficulty the insignificance of addressing twenty or thirty undergraduates calling themselves for the occasion the Oxford Edgar Wallace Society. We had perhaps expected something "loud" about him. Nothing of the kind was on view.

What did he talk about, or rather narrate? It was Sanders-Bones-Bosambo stuff, with Wallace himself improbably, indeed preposterously, close to the centre of every action. We were sophisticated after a juvenile fashion; knew we were listening to a pack of lies: were amused. But then our perception of the affair changed. These were *new* lies. Wallace wasn't putting on a stock performance. He was creating as he spoke — fluently, with scarcely a pause — just as if he were at his dictaphone at home, running up a new novel or play over the weekend.

We finished by listening awed in the presence of this inventive power. Joseph Conrad, could he be conceived of as speaking to us about *Heart of Darkness*, Joyce Cary describing to a succeeding generation of students the background of *Aissa Saved*, could scarcely have produced a more persuasive assertion of familiarity with the mysteries of Congo of Niger.

Edgar Wallace was the illegitimate child of a struggling small-time actress who concealed his birth and arranged for his bringing up by foster-parents in the large family of a Billingsgate fish-porter. He was to regard himself as having been completely rejected by his mother, and is said to have turned her away from his door with a wholly uncharacteristic harshness when she presented herself in a distressed condition in her later years.

In his boyhood she did however visit him from time to time, and her occasional gifts of theatre tickets, together with her general theatrical ambience, probably constituted as profound a formative influence as he was to undergo. Most of what he did had as its sole aim the acquiring of money to spend. But the theatre was an exception. At the level of melodrama at which he understood it, the stage was with him an absorbing passion pursued for its own sake.

His early years were unremarkable. Not caring for employment as a newsboy or bottle-washer, he ran away to sea, and quickly ran back again. He enlisted and was sent to South Africa, astutely managed to transfer himself to the easy service of the Medical Staff Corps, and began to write. He achieved some local fame as the Kipling Tommy who could turn out the more facile sort of Kipling verse, and Kipling himself said friendly things about him.

Soon he had bought his discharge from the army with a borrowed eighteen pounds, been appointed a Reuter's correspondent of a subordinate sort, and thus launched on a journalist's career — the diverse and often hectic activities of which he was to pursue side by side with intensive authorship to the end of his days.

All this was much to the credit of an entirely self-educated young man — or rather a young man uninterested in any sort of self-education not of evident immediate utility in a more than moderately ambitious conception of getting on. There was nothing meteoric about his career. Endowed with immense self-confidence and resilience, easily excited to a valuable pitch of nervous tension yet with a power of swiftly recovered equanimity and poise, he is nevertheless to be seen constantly making miscalculations, losing jobs, involved in bizarre fiascos, esentially through not knowing quite enough.

Thus he could be enthusiastic over the Turf, and spin yarns about it with all the convincing know-how of a Nat Gould or a Dick Francis, but when he bought horses (giving them proud names out of the Sanders stories) they almost invariably proved not to be the sort of animals that win races. When he wrote a new play he was without any disciplined critical faculty to bring to bear on it, and could be totally at sea as to whether it was good or *bad*. Even the common mechanisms of the market place were often obscure to him — a fact well illustrated by the odd history of *The Four Just Men*.

The book was planned as his first big coup with a crime thriller, and he based himself on the premise that anything that is sufficiently widely advertised is bound to sell widely. He had also thought up what would later have been called a gimmick. The manner in which the Just Men had killed the wicked Foreign Secretary was to be withheld, and £500 was to be distributed in prizes to readers sending in approved solutions.

On this project he worked with frenzied enthusiasm. £1,000 (scarcely a penny towards which he possessed) was his first estimate of the cost of promoting the book. But as his zeal mounted, and London became plastered with huge posters announcing what was in store for it, the bill mounted too. "I shall be glad," he wrote to his wife in South Africa, "to have the book finished and off my conscience, for I am most anxious to get on with the advertising part of it. This latter is really the most important part."

Thus plugged, the book did, not unnaturally, go well. But as its retail price was only 3s 6d it was obvious that sales would have to be phenomenal indeed if the enterprise were not to end in disaster. Here was what Wallace had failed to consider — and he had failed, too, to reflect on the likelihood that passably "correct" solutions to his mystery would come in by the hundred, as indeed they did. As he had no money at all except what the book was earning from day to day, there were delays and silences which prompted widespread suspicions of fraud.

Wallace was working on the *Daily Mail* at the time, and the novel had been lavishly advertised in the paper. Its proprietor, Alfred Harmsworth, took the view that his reputation required him to put up the money to rescue his employee. But for some time he thought poorly of Wallace, and to be thought poorly of by Harmsworth was not the happiest of positions in Fleet Street in 1905.

Nevertheless *The Four Just Men* marked a turning-point in Wallace's career, since it gave him his master formula. He had been trying his hand at romantic fiction, entirely without success. But now, in sending his wife for some reason a book called *A World Without a Child*, he wrote: "It is of course full of religious tosh, that seems to take with the blithering multitude, in fact religion and immorality are the only things that sell books nowadays. I am going to start a middle course and give them *crime and blood and three murders to the chapter*: such is the insanity of the age that I do not doubt for one moment the success of my venture."

In the long run the event justified his confidence. "Crime and blood and three murders to the chapter" was as unfailing a recipe as Raymond Chandler's "Have a man come in the door with a gun". One simply need never be stuck.

Leslie Banks (left) and Paul Robeson in Sanders of the River.

He had begun as a journalist sharply observant on the fringe of things. In Africa he had been *not only a private soldier* and a war correspondent but also, at a later date, an investigator on behalf of Harmsworth of rumoured atrocities in the Belgian Congo. Of native life in its more picturesque aspects, and the problems it presented to white administrators he had picked up much, but largely at second-hand and what may be called a yarning level; like Kipling he knew that "sometimes in a smoking-room, one learns why things were done". The long series of Sanders and related stories — the next important land-mark after *The Four Just Men* — is based on this, on some rapid reading in aid of the project, and (one is inclined to suppose) on the widely popular African romances of Rider Haggard.

The numerous kingdoms over which Mr Commissioner Sanders holds sway are peopled by savages and cannibals all of whom are wily, nearly all cruel and courageous, a few mild and cowardly. They are credited, at convenience, with telepathic and mesmeric powers, so that Sanders, chugging round among them in his little river steamer and commonly only with a small detail of native troops, is hard put to it to come out regularly on top. He is very much a man of swift action, liberal with hangings and "scientifically" inflicted floggings, and the basis of his power is that succinctly expressed by Hilaire Belloc:

We have got The Gatling gun and they have not.

He can afford to be foolhardy. He will walk nonchalantly into a trap; be trussed and *later put* to the torture of having to dance barefoot on hot stones. Just in time, the super-wily but faithful Bosambo and his tribe will turn up, a gun will be unmasked and begin rapid fire, the torturers will scatter and all be well.

Here and there in the stories a sentimental touch is admitted — as when a boy-king, whom Sanders has introduced to his duties with the help of a cane lavishly laid on, saves the life of his instructor at the cost of his own. But in general the aim is to be tough all through — and in *simple, rapid* and vigorous prose. There is much ramshackle improvization but also a good deal of clever plotting in the interest of some sharp surprise.

Throughout his work, alike in plays, novels and short stories, the plotting is nothing if not boldly imaginative. Thus in a story called "Circumstantial Evidence" a chemistry student who just happens to have a bottle of cyanide of potassium in her pocket finds herself studying the wine-glass of a rich uncle whose heir she has that day become, and who just happens to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide of potassium a few minutes later. We must not quarrel with such fabrications if we are to enjoy Wallace in a large way.

But his command of surprise is of a different order. One of the Sanders stories, "The Lonely One", turns itself brilliantly inside-out in its final eight words. In what is perhaps the best of the crime novels, *The Crimson Circle*, we follow, among other threads, the investigations of a certain Derrick Yale, a "psychometric detective", who can tell by handling a cartridge case that the man who fired it was suffering from toothache. The conclusion of this story, entirely convincing within the framework of its illusion, brings this absurdity to heel in a dénouement scarcely rivalled by a supreme masterpiece in the kind, Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Had Wallace been more continent in his productions, this ability would have made a more lasting mark than it did. In his financial dealings he was unendingly rash and generous. Because he had a big Rolls-Royce his wife must have at least a smaller one. Because he owned racehorses he must have a box at Ascot as well.

The final phase of his life came with a visit to California. He had made a trip to America in very grand style three years before, engaging the royal suite in the liner Berengaria for his family and entourage, working during the passage at a desk which had been installed for a prime minister, granting in New York inumerable interviews judged of high publicity value, and soaking up all Chicago and its gangsterdom, the empire of Al Capone included, during a delirious visit of twenty-four hours. Back in England, and inspired by this revelation of a higher criminality, he had sat down and produced in four days a play called *On the Spot*.

Like Capone, its central figure, Tony Perrelli (played, through Wallace's astute choice, by Charles Laughton), operates in Chicago on a splendid scale. He has juries in his pocket and judges eating out of his hands; he owns five brothels with forty girls in each; the women with whom he himself associates say things like, "You can't respect a guy who ain't got the money to treat you right". Eventually he is successfully framed by a Chief of Police for a murder which is in fact a suicide, and makes "strange, beastly, terrified noises" as his fate closes in on him. *On the Spot*, unlike Wallace's horses, was a winner right from the starting-gate.

But now things were different. There had been family troubles and at least brief estrangements, too many failures in rapid alternation with the successes, and even to his optimistic view an increasingly clear picture of the hazards of squandering large sums of money shortly — or not so shortly — before earning them. And he was going not to New York or Chicago but to Hollywood, to work under totally new conditions when already in his later fifties. He had hesitated, deferred the trip, betaken himself to Italy instead. "I am going to Rome on Thursday", he said in an interview, "to have a complete rest. I shall also visit Naples — just in case." And characteristically, lest the point of this subtle witticism should be missed, he had added, "Last week I had a touch of bronchitis, and I said to myself, 'I must see Naples before I die'."

Naples failed to come off, but in Hollywood he did eventually arrive. It was a brief up-and-down experience, with more downs than ups. They set him to contrive a "horror picture" and *he got some way with what* was finally called *King Kong*. But he was restless and ill at ease — and homesick despite the unexpected companionship of two English jockeys, Michael Beary and the famous Steve Donoghue.

There was a plan for his wife to join him in Hollywood, and he wrote to her constantly, exhibiting an obsessive concern over her movements in England and Switzerland. At the same time he had become romantically attached to a young American actress; she failed to keep a dinner appointment with him; a crisis developed. Drinking more *and more of his heavily* sweetened tea, and forced to face the fact that his health was deteriorating, he had told his wife to bring out with her a favourite patent medicine, and set his servant scouring the drug stores for others.

It was an inclement February, and *his* days were spent indoors in an overheated atmosphere. But after midnight on the occasion of the broken appointment he was found in his silk dressing-gown, pacing up and down the sidewalk in front of his house, still anxiously awaiting his guest's arrival. By the following morning he was very ill, and discovered to be an undiagnosed case of *diabetes mellitus*. Death followed swiftly.

His body was brought back to England on the Berengaria — not in the royal suite but with a certain regality all the same. The liner, we are told, crept into Southampton Water with her flag at half-mast; the flags of Southampton slipped gently down to salute him; bells tolled in Fleet Street.

There was nothing unfitting about this. The Billingsgate street urchin had made himself the most widely read romancer of his time — and not through mere facility, although that was abundantly there, but rather by unremitting labour of an almost superhuman order. Yet there was surely something a shade ironic about this mass-entertainer's end. See Hollywood and die.

He left very large debts but they were coped with speedily from the royalties that still came in. The books and plays continued to live on for a time. Some are alive still. There were films, including, of course, the immensely popular *King Kong*.

It was in a film, and posthumously, that his art received perhaps its strangest tribute. When Korda produced *Sanders of the River* in 1935 the rôle of Bosambo was undertaken by Paul Robeson — who had been playing Othello at the Savoy Theatre in the year Laughton was playing Perrelli at Wyndham's.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

PHILHARMONIA

Music Director : Riccardo Muti
Principal Guest Conductor

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY

conducts

Tomorrow at 3.15
Strauss : Don Juan

MAYUMI FUJIKAWA (soloist)

Mendelssohn : Violin Concerto
Debussy : Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune
Stravinsky : The Firebird, Suite (1919)
SPONSORED BY NCR
£2, £4 (only)

Thursday next 11 February at 8
Stravinsky : Octet

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY (soloist)

Mozart : Piano Concerto in C, K.503
Shostakovich : Symphony No. 8
SPONSORED BY TRICENTROL
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Thursday 18 February at 8

BERNARD HAITINK

CLIFFORD CURZON

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Mozart : Piano Concerto in C, K.467
Strauss : Ein Heldenleben
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

SIR CHARLES GROVES

IDA HAENDEL

DVORAK : Slavonic Rhapsody No.3 in A flat major
HINDEMITH : Symphony in E flat (1940)
BRAHMS : Violin Concerto in D major
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FRIDAY NEXT 12 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JEAN-CLAUDE CASADESUS conductor
JESSYE NORMAN soprano

HAYDN: Symphony No. 83 in G minor (La Poule)
Scena di Berenice
SCHOENBERG: Song of the Wood-Dove from Gurrelieder
BIZET: Symphony No. 1 in C
With assistance from Ian Stoutzker Music Foundation
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SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY at 3.15 p.m.

ALICIA DE LARROCHA

"The world's greatest lady pianist." Daily Telegraph

Seven Bagatelles, Op. 33 .... BEETHOVEN
Sonata in A flat, Op. 110 .... BEETHOVEN
Humoreske, Op. 20 .... SCHUMANN
Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise
Brillante in E flat, Op. 22 .... CHOPIN
£1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5, £6 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents
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MOZART CONCERT

Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K488
Overture, 'The Marriage of Figaro'
Symphony No. 35 in D, K385 (Haffner)
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
SIR ALEXANDER GIBSON PETER ARONSKY
£2, £2.80, £3.70, £4.60, £5.30, £6 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

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Elgar DREAM OF GERONTIUS
73rd London performance
ALFREDA HODGSON KENNETH COLLINS
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MONDAY 8 MARCH at 8

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor EUGEN JOCHUM
Symphony No. 39 MOZART
Symphony No. 7 BRUCKNER
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

HAROLD HOLT LIMITED
presents

DMITRI ALEXEEV

piano recital
LISZT, CHOPIN, SCRIABIN
Friday next, 12 February at 7.45
£1.50, £2, £2.50, £3.20, £4 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 24 February at 7.45 p.m.

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

RICHARD HICKOX conductor
JACK BRYMER clarinet
J. C. Bach: SINFONIA Op.9 No.2
Osborne: FLUTE CONCERTO
DUKE DOBING flute
J. S. Bach: BRANDENBURG CONCERTO No.3, BWV1048
Mozart: CLARINET CONCERTO, K622
Stravinsky: CONCERTO "DUMBARTON OAKS"
£1.50, £2.25, £3, £3.75, £4.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

CITY OF LONDON CHOIR

Conductor DONALD CASHMORE
HAYDN HODDINOTT
HARMONIEMESSE ORATORIO : THE TREE OF LIFE
Janet Price (sop), Mary King (contr), David Johnston (tenor), Graham Titus (baritone), Leslie Pearson (organ).
London Bach Orchestra
Tickets: £2, £3, £3.25, £3.75, £4.50 from RFH Box Office (01-928 3191) and GLC Box Office (01-398 5058).

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY at 3 p.m.
From the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

THE BRANDIS QUARTET OF BERLIN

THOMAS BRANDIS, PETER BREM violins
WILFRIED STREHLE viola
WOLFGANG BOETTCHER cello
Quartet in G minor, Op.10 .... DEBUSSY
Quartet in D, Op.20 No.4 .... HAYDN
Quartet in D minor, D.810
'Death and the Maiden' .... SCHUBERT
£1.60, £2.50, £3.30, £4.20, £5 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents
Management: IBBS & TILLETT LTD.

PURCELL ROOM

Sunday 14 Feb. 7 p.m.	CHRISTOPHER KITE & ROBERT FERGUSON. Two Pianos. Liszt: A La Chapelle Sixtine; Réminiscences de Don Juan. Mozart/Grieg: Sonata in C, K545. Debussy/Ravel: Nocturnes Grainger: Handel in the Strand. £2, £2.50, £3. Jane Gray.
Tuesday 16 Feb. 7.30 p.m.	GARTH KNOX viola, JAN LATHAM-KOENIG piano. Sonatas by Hindemith (Op.11/4), Henze & Shostakovich. 'Door of the Sun' for viola solo; Five pieces for piano solo by Maxwell Davies. £1.50, £2, £2.50. Jane Gray.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 6 Feb 3 & 7 pm	RSPB FILMS The Master Builders shows the variety of nests built by birds at home & abroad; The Short-Eared Owl features the life style of this interesting bird; The Vital River an appraisal of river management in the UK. £1.50 (3 pm), £1.50, £1.80, £2.70 (only) (7 pm) RSPB
Sunday 7 Feb 3.15 pm	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Vladimir Ashkenazy (cond) Mayumi Fujikawa (vln) Strauss Don Juan; Mendelssohn Violin Concerto; Debussy Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune; Stravinsky Suite, The Firebird (1919). £2.00, £4.00 (only). Philharmonia Ltd
Sunday 7 Feb 7.30 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Yuri Temirkanov (conductor) Shlomo Mintz (violin) Rimsky-Korsakov Ov. Legend of the invisible City of Kitezh; Dvorák Violin Concerto; Rachmaninov Symphony No. 2. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00. RPO Ltd
Monday 8 Feb 8.00 pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Neville Marriner (conductor) Bella Davidovich (piano) Britten Men of Goodwill: Variations on a Christmas Carol for orchestra (1st Con pf); Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2; Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique. £2, £3, £3.70, £4.40, £5, £6, £7. LSO Ltd
Tuesday 9 Feb 8.00 pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos (cond) Alicia de Larrocha (pno) Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2; Debussy La Mer; Ravel Boléro. £3.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00. LPO Ltd
Wednesday 10 Feb 5.55 pm	ORGAN SPECTRUM David Sanger (organ) Leyding Praeludium; Bach Sonata No. 1, BWV. 525; Fugue c., the Magnificat, BWV. 733; Fugue, BWV. 577; Alain Trois Danses: Joies; Deuils; Luttes; Vierne Aria, Scherzo and Final. £1.50 unreserved Royal Festival Hall
Wednesday 10 Feb 8.00 pm	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sir Charles Groves (cond) Ida Haendel (violin) Dvorák Slavonic Rhapsody, Op. 45 No. 3; Hindemith Symphony in E flat (1940); Brahms Violin Concerto. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 BBC
Thursday 11 Feb 8.00 pm	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Vladimir Ashkenazy (conductor/piano) Stravinsky Octet; Mozart Piano Concerto in C, K.503; Shostakovich Symphony No. 8. £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 (only). Philharmonia Ltd
Friday 12 Feb 8.00 pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Jean-Claude Casadesus (cond) Jessye Norman (sop) Haydn Symphony No. 83; Scena di Berenice; Schoenberg Song of the Wood-Dove (Gurrelieder); Bizet Symphony in C. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 ECO & Music Society Ltd
Saturday 13 Feb 8.00 pm	THE BACH CHOIR Philharmonia Orchestra Sir David Willcocks (cond) Catherine Wyn-Rogers (contr) William Kendall (ten) Willard White (bass) Walton Te Deum; Variations on a Theme by Hindemith; Gloria; Belshazzar's Feast. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 The Bach Choir
Sunday 14 Feb 3.15 pm	ALICIA DE LARROCHA (piano) Beethoven Seven Bagatelles, Op. 33; Sonata, Op. 110; Schumann Humoreske, Op. 20; Chopin Andante spianato and Grand Polonaise. £1.60, £2.40, £3.30, £4.20, £5.00, £6.00 Ibbs & Tillett Ltd
Sunday 14 Feb 7.30 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Yuri Temirkanov (conductor) Dmitri Alexeev (piano) Borodin Ov. Prince Igor; Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2; Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 RPO Ltd
Monday 15 Feb 5.55 pm	CONCERT PLATFORM 5 (Waterloo Room) DR ROBERT SIMPSON will speak about Bruckner's Symphony No. 5 to be performed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra later in the evening. After the talk the speaker will invite the audience to hold informal discussions with him. £1 RFH
Monday 15 Feb 8.00 pm	BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Uri Segal (conductor) Benjamin Luxon (baritone) Mussorgsky Songs and Dances of Death; Bruckner Symphony No. 5. £2, £3, £4, £5, £6, £7. Western Orchestral Society Ltd
Tuesday 16 Feb 8.00 pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Yevgeny Svetlanov (con) Rossini Overture, William Tell; Elgar Variations on an original theme (Enigma); Brahms Symphony No. 4. £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00. LPO Ltd
Wednesday 17 Feb 5.55 pm	ORGAN SPECTRUM Edgar Krapp (organ) Bach Prelude & Fugue, BWV. 548; Chorale Prelude, BWV. 653b; Mendelssohn Sonata No. 3; Reger Prelude, Op 59 No. 1; Scherzo, Op. 80 No. 7; Canzone, Op. 65 No. 9; Karl Höller Chorale Variations on Jesu meine Freude, Op. 22 No 2 £1.50 unreserved. Royal Festival Hall
Wednesday 17 Feb 8.00 pm	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BBC Singers BBC Symphony Chorus Goldsmiths Choral Union Rozdestvensky (cond) Lott (sop) Hodgson (contr) Woollam (ten) Shirley-Quirk (bar) Wilson-Johnson (b. baritone) King (bass) Elgar The Apostles. £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 (only) BBC
Thursday 18 Feb 8.00 pm	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA conductor to be announced. Clifford Curzon (piano) Mozart Symphony No. 32 (Ov. in the Italian style); Piano Concerto in C, K.467; Strauss Ein Heldenleben. £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 (only) Philharmonia Ltd
Friday 19 Feb 8.00 pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Yevgeny Svetlanov (conductor) Oleg Kagan (violin) Natalia Gutman (cello) Brahms Double Concerto; Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5. £2.00, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00, £6.00, £7.00 LSO Ltd

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Today 6 Feb 7.45 pm	SCHUTZ CHOIR OF LONDON London Baroque Players Roger Norrington (conductor) Schütz Choir 20th Birthday Concert Schütz (Deutsches Magnificat; Seven Last Words; Musikalische Exequien. £2.50, £4.00 Schütz Choir of London
Sunday 7 Feb 3.00 pm	PASCAL ROGE (piano) Beethoven Sonata in B flat, Op. 22; Sonata in D minor, Op 31 No. 2; Six Bagatelles, Op. 126; Sonata in F minor, Op. 57 (Appassionata). £1.20, £1.70, £2.20, £2.80, £3.50 Harrison/Parrott Ltd
Sunday 7 Feb 7.15 pm	YMSO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA James Blair (conductor) David Thomas (oboe) Clifford Lantaff (harp) Haydn Symphony No. 53 (Imperial); Henze Double Concerto for oboe, harp and strings; Beethoven Symphony No. 2. £1.00, £1.80, £2.70, £3.60, £4.50. YMSO Society
Monday 8 Feb 7.45 pm	JUNKO NAKAYAMA (piano) Schubert Impromptu in G flat, D.899; Sonata in B flat, D.960; Chopin Impromptu in F sharp, Op. 36; Sonata in B minor, Op. 58. £2.50, £3.00, £3.50 (only) Helen Jennings Concert Agency
Tuesday 9 Feb 7.45 pm	LONDON SINFONIETTA London Sinfonietta Chorus E. Howarth (cond) & sists. Works by Maxwell Davies Goehr Birtwistle. The concert will be preceded by a talk in the QEH at 6.15 pm with Alexander Goehr and Bernard Williams £1.00, £1.70, £2.40, £3.20, £.400 Sin Prod.
Wednesday 10 Feb 7.45 pm	THE FIRES OF LONDON Peter Maxwell Davies, John Carewe (conds) Stephen Pruslin (pno) Mary Thomas (sop) Maxwell Davies Psalm 124; Piano Sonata (1st Lond pf); Revelation & Fall (1st pf). £1.20, £2.60, £3.70, £4.50. The Fires of London
Thursday 11 Feb 7.45 pm	ALLEGRI STRING QUARTET Beethoven Cycle Beethoven Quartet in G, Op 18 No. 2; Quartet in E flat, Op. 74 (Harp); Quartet in A minor, Op. 132. £1.00, £1.80, £2.70, £3.60, £4.50 Van Walsum Mgt.
Friday 12 Feb 7.45 pm	DMITRI ALEXEEV (piano) Liszt Variations on a Theme by Bach; Elegie No. 2; Nuages Gris; Richard Wagner—Venezia; Devotion; Mephisto Waltz No. 1; Works by Chopin and Scriabin. £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.20, £4.00 Harold Holt Ltd
Saturday 13 Feb 7.45 pm	LONDON CHORALE David Coleman (conductor) Gilbert Biberian (guitar) Paul Griffiths (piano) Stockhausen Chöre für Doris; McCabe Aspects of Whiteness; Castelnuovo-Tedesco Romancero Gitano; Hamilton Mass in A £1.50, £2.25, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00 London Chorale
Sunday 14 Feb 7.15 pm	KOL RINA An entertainment in music, poetry, song and dance presented by the London Jewish Male Choir and ORANIM Israeli Dance Troupe. £4.00, £5.00 (only) London Jewish Male Choir
Monday 15 Feb 7.45 pm	YOURI EGOROV (piano) Chopin 12 Etudes, Op. 10; Debussy 12 Preludes, Book 1. £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00, £3.50 Van Walsum Mgt
Tuesday 16 Feb 7.45 pm	LONDON SINFONIETTA Elgar Howarth (cond) Works by Birtwistle Goehr Maxwell Davies The concert will be preceded by a talk in the QEH at 6.15 pm by HARRISON BIRTWISTLE & PETER HEYWORTH £1.00, £1.70, £2.40, £3.20, £4.00 Sinfonietta Prod Ltd
Wednesday 17 Feb 7.45 pm	LONDON MOZART PLAYERS Mark Elder (cond) Imogen Cooper (pno) Haydn Symphony No. 49; Mozart Piano Concerto, K.453; Mendelssohn Sinfonia No. 10; Schubert Symphony No. 5. £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 (only) Haydn-Mozart Society
Thursday 18 Feb 7.45 pm	ALLEGRI STRING QUARTET Beethoven Cycle Beethoven Quartet in C minor, Op. 18 No. 4; Quartet in F, Op. 59 No. 1 (Rasumovsky); Quartet in E flat, Op. 127. £1.00, £1.80, £2.70, £3.60, £4.50 Van Walsum Mgt
Friday 19 Feb 7.45 pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Malcolm Schiff Garcia Bennett Bach Sinfonia from Cantata No. 209; Concerto in A minor for flute, violin and piano; Piano Concerto, BWV. 1053; Concerto for two pianos, BWV. 1061. £2, £4, £6 (only) ECO & Music Society Ltd

PURCELL ROOM

Today 6 Feb 7.30 pm	LONDON HARPSICHORD ENSEMBLE Sarah Francis (director) Telemann Trio in G minor for oboe, violin & continuo; Scarlatti 3 Harpsichord Sonatas: Kk.105; Kk.517; Kk.490; Works by Vivaldi, Bach, Handel. £2.00, £3.00 (only) Jane Gray
Sunday 7 Feb 2.45 pm	SYRINX. Martin Parry (flute) David Watkins (harp) David Nolan (violin) Anthony Byrne (viola) Mark Jackson (cello) Prog incl Debussy Sonata for fl, vla & hp; Roussel Serenade Op. 30; Lennox & Michael Berkeley Pierne Roparts £1.50, £2.00, £3.00 Jane Gray
Monday 8 Feb 8.00 pm	TAKAKO SELBY-OKAMOTO (soprano) H. Lester (piano) Schumann Songs; Wolf Sechs Lieder für eine Frauenstimme; Himaru Hayashi Songs of Love; Works by Akira Miyoshi & Szymanowski. £1.00, £1.50, £2.00 John Higham International Artists
Tuesday 9 Feb 7.30 pm	ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS Rennert (cond) Kennard Tyrrell Laver Woolford Stevens Birch Saint-Saëns. Six duos for harmonium & piano, Op. 8 (1st modern pf); Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle. £1.50, £2.25, £3.00 St Michael's Singers
Wednesday 10 Feb 7.30 pm	GEMINI ENSEMBLE OF AMSTERDAM J. C. F. Bach Trio Sonata in C for flute, oboe and piano; Françaix Quartet for violin, viola, cello & cor anglais; Works by Schoenberg/Webern & Fauré. £1.50, £2.00, £2.50 Netherlands Embassy/Helen Anderson
Thursday 11 Feb 7.30 pm	CHRISTOPHER KITE (piano) PETER DAVIES (flute) CAROLINE BROWN (cello) Haydn Trio, Hob. XV. 16; Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII. 6; Trio, Hob. XV. 17; Piano Sonata, Hob. XVI. 49; Trio, Hob. XV. 16. £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 Helen Jennings Concert Agency
Friday 12 Feb 7.30 pm	KAROLY BOTVAY (cello) Bach Suite No. 2, BWV. 1008; Suite No. 5, BWV. 1011; Bozay Formazioni per violoncello solo, Op. 16; Kodály Capriccio. £1.50, £2.50 Erica Goddard
Saturday 13 Feb 2.30 pm	WILLIAM PARKER (baritone) The first prize winner of the 1979 International American Music Competition presents a workshop/master class in 20th century American repertory. Free tickets: 460 6259 Carnegie Hall/Rockefeller Foundation
Saturday 13 Feb 7.30 pm	MARGARETTE ASHTON (sop) PETER HARRISON (fl) RICHARD BURNETT (fpno) A Winter Serenade Arne Where the Bee Sucks; Under the Greenwood Tree; When Daisies Pied; Works by Gunn Haydn Clementi J. C. Bach. £1.50, £2.00 (only) Concert Royal

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Anne James Soprano. Geraldine Stephenson choreographer
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Scheherazade .... RIMSKY-KORSAKOV
Bolero .... RAVEL
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Tonight 6 Feb 7.30 p.m.	NASH ENSEMBLE THOMAS ALLEN bar. Russian Music with Chamber works by Mozart £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50	Tchaikovsky: Largo for 2 flutes & string quintet; Mozart: Clarinet Quintet in A K581; Mussorgsky: Songs & Dances of Death; Stravinsky: Octet. Russian Series. Amelia Freedman
Tomorrow 7 Feb 3.30 p.m.	JEFFREY BENTON baritone ROBERT SUTHERLAND piano £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50	Schumann: Songs: Dichterliebe Op 48; Vaughan Williams: Songs of Travel; Italian Songs. Helen Jennings Concert Agency.
Tomorrow 7 Feb 7.30 p.m.	PHILOMEL with NIGEL ROGERS tenor, £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50. Early Music/Baroque Series	Jean Baptiste Morin: La Chasse du Cerf (The Stag Hunt) Divertissement in 7 scenes capture the excitement of the hunt in a musical tableau. Music by Clerambault & Philidor.
Monday 8 Feb 7.30 p.m.	YVAN CHIFFOLEAU cello LAURENCE CHIFFOLEAU piano £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 Basil Douglas Ltd	Valentini: Sonata in E; Beethoven: Sonata in A Op 69; Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata Op posth; Schumann: 5 Stücke im Volkston.
Tuesday 9 Feb 7.30 p.m.	ANDREAS HERZAU guitar £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 Basil Douglas Ltd	Sor: Variations on Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre; Giuliani: Grand Overture; Tarrega: Recuerdos de la Alhambra etc; Stevens: Guitar; Villa-Lobos: 5 Preludes, 4 Studies.
Wednesday 10 Feb 7.30 p.m.	PRO CORDA Hans Helmler con. £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 Pro Corda Trust/Focus Ceramics	National Association of Young String Players. Frances Dodd pno Hilary Jane Parker, Adrian Butterfield vlns. Works by Mozart & Bach.
Thursday 11 Feb 7.30 p.m.	WILLIAM BYRD CHOIR Gavin Turner dir. £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 EMN/Early Music & Baroque Series	Sacred Choral Masterpieces of the Renaissance. John Taverner: Dum transisset Sabbatum; Western Wind Mass; Motets from Cantiones Sacrae by Tallis & Byrd.
Friday 12 Feb 7.30 p.m.	WILLIAM PARKER baritone WILLIAM HUCKABY piano £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50	Brahms: Vier ernste Gesänge; Rorem: Early in the Morning, War Scenes; Barber: Mélodies passagères. Songs by Griffes, John Alden Carpenter, Ives, Bernstein, Copland, etc.
Saturday 13 Feb 7.30 pm	BALINT VAZSONYI piano £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 Basil Douglas Ltd	Mozart: Fantasia in C min K475; Sonata in E flat K282; Schumann: Faschingsschwank aus Wien Op 26, Etudes symphoniques Op 13.
Sunday 14 Feb 3.30 pm	Sascha Lasserson Memorial Prize Concert GILLIAN FINDLAY vln BERYL WOOD pno. £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50	Bach: Solo Sonata in C; Richard Stoker: Solo Sonata Op 61 (1st perf); Paganini: Caprices; Schubert: Sonatina in G min; Suk: Un poco triste, Burleska; Sinding: Suite in A min.
Sunday 14 Feb 7.30 p.m.	THE PARLOUR QUARTET Victorian St Valentine's Day Concert. £3.50, £3, £2.50, £1.80	Misses Silvia Eaves & Maureen Keetch, Mr Robert Carpenter-Turner, Mr Kenneth Barclay. Popular songs ballads & duets of a bygone age. Audience invited to dress accordingly.
Monday 15 Feb 7.30 pm	ROSEMARIE LANDRY soprano DALTON BALDWIN piano	Songs by Gounod, Berlioz, Debussy, Jaques Leguerney, Poulenc, Roussel. £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50. Charlotte Nicholls
Tuesday 16 Feb. 7.30 pm	JULIAN DAWSON-LYELL piano £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 Helen Anderson Music Management	Beethoven: Sonata in C Op 53 'Waldstein'; Corey-Field: Sonata (1st Lon perf); Bartok: 3 Burlesques; Chopin: Sonata in B flat min Op 35 'Funeral March'.
Wednesday 17 Feb. 7.30 pm	REGINE CRESPIN soprano GEOFFREY PARSONS piano £5, £4.50 (ONLY)	Schumann: 3 Songs from Liederkreis; Frauenliebe und-leben Op 42; Debussy: Le Promenoir des deux amants; Songs by Satie & Bridge. Song Recital Series/Music Int.
Thursday 18 Feb. 7.30 pm	THAMES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Michael Dobson con. £4.50, £4, £3, £2 EM/Baroque Series	The Classical Style 2nd of 4 Concerti by Vivaldi, JS Bach, Telemann, WF Bach: Sinfonia in D min. Richard Dobson fl. Harold Lester hpschd, Richard Bissill hrn, Anna Joseph vln.
Friday 19 Feb 7.30 pm	JOHN WILLIAMS guitar ALL SEATS SOLD Harold Holt Ltd.	Special guests PACO PENA and GERALD GARCIA In aid of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

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Tonight 6 Feb. 7.30 pm	VARESE ENSEMBLE. Martin Pring cond. Lutoslawski: Dance Preludes (3rd version). Tim Ewers: Nine Tomorrows. Morton Feldman: Instruments II. Ligeti: Melodien. Birtwistle: Silbury Air. £3, £2.50, £2. Varese Ensemble
Tomorrow 7 Feb. 7 pm	J. S. BACH: ST. JOHN PASSION (new English trans. by Lyndon van der Pump; Chorales J. W. Lambert). Neil Mackie, John King, Kathleen Livingstone, Carol Leatherby, Harry Nicholl, James Ottoway, Camden Chamber Choir/Southern Sinfonia. Julian Williamson cond. £4, £3, £2, £1.50. Jane Gray
Tuesday 9 Feb. 8 pm	THE SALOMON ORCHESTRA. Stephen Barlow cond. Alexander Baillie cello. Dvorak: The Noonday Witch. Lutoslawski: Cello Concerto. Rachmaninov: Symphonic Dances. £2. The Salomon Orchestra
Wednesday 10 Feb. 7.30 pm	DIVERTIMENTI String Orchestra. Paul Barritt dir. Thomas Demenga cello. Mozart: Divertimento in D, K136. J. S. Bach: 3 Solo Cello Suites. Martin: Ballade for cello and piano; Pavane Couleur du temps; Rhapsodie (1st UK perf). £4, £3, £2. Divertimenti
Thursday 11 Feb. 7.30 pm	THE ZEMEL CHOIR. Antony Saunders conductor. Brahms: Motets, Op. 110. Wesley: In exitu Israel. Orff: Catulli Carmina. Works by de Rossi, Delius, Schubert etc. £3, £2.50, £2. The Zemel Choir
Friday 12 Feb. to Sunday 14 Feb.	RECORDING SESSIONS. No admittance to the public.

ST. JOHN'S, Smith Sq. TOMORROW at 7 p.m.

ST. JOHN PASSION : J. S. BACH

(new English trans. by Lyndon van der Pump; Chorales J. W. Lambert)
For details see St. John's panel
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OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight, Thurs 7.0: THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO. Tues, Fri 7.0: AIDA. Wed 8.0: THE FLYING DUTCHMAN. 104 balcony seats avail from 10am on day.

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SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, EC1 See under Theatres for JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. TOMORROW 7.30pm GALA PERFORMANCE see Concerts. Spring Opera & Dance Subscription Season. Tel: 01-278 0855 for brochure, any time day or night.

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THEATRES

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PLAY OF THE YEAR
"Riveting piece of drama" Guardian. "STUNNING" Fin. Times.

ALDWYCH S 836 6404 cc 379 6233 (10-6, Sats. 10-4). Info 836 5332. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in London Premiere of Schnitzler's LA RONDE today 2.00 mat & 7.30pm (this play is about sexual relationships and is not suitable for children). Previews of THE FOREST from 10 Feb. Prestel 22025. Group Sales 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse/Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS 836 1171. Group Sales 379 6061. Eves 8pm. Mats Tues 3 & Sat 5. Tkts £6, £5, £4, £3. ROSEMARY LEACH DAVID SWIFT "It's a charming story and is put over superlatively by Rosemary Leach and David Swift" Naseem Kahn.
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BUSH THEATRE 743 3388. The Number of the Beast by Snoo Wilson Tues, Sun 8pm.

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COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium — low price tkts). Ton't 7.30 ONE WOMAN PLAYS by Dario Fo & Franca Rame (not suitable for children). Mon 7.30 TRUE WEST

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DUCHESS. S & CC 836 8243. Eves. 8. Wed 3. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. Richard Todd, Derren Nesbitt and Carole Mowlam in "BEST THRILLER FOR YEARS." THE BUSINESS OF MURDER "AN UNABASHED WINNER" S. Exp. "SENSATIONAL" Times.

DUKE OF YORK'S 836 5122. CC 836 9837. Grp. Sales 379 6061. Eves. 7.45. Price Mat. Thurs 3. Sat 5 & 8.15. SIMON CALLOW & PATRICK RYECART in The Beastly Beatitudes of BALTHAZAR B by J. P. DONLEAVY "A REAL RARITY. A ROARING COMEDY. STRONGLY AN AFFIRMATION OF LIFE. FROM THE VARIETIES OF THE LOVE, FROM THE COARSE TO THE SUBLIME." Times

FORTUNE THEATRE 836 2238 'S' Russell St Covent Garden JOHN BARDON as the legendary MAX MILLER in HERE'S A FUNNY THING by R. W. Shakespeare. "MAGIC! A LEGEND RECREATED" D. EXP. "ADORABLE SEQUENCES OF MINOR FILTH AND FUN" Gdn. Mon-Thur 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 9pm. £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £4.50, £6.00. Lowest ticket prices in West End!

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HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301 FRANCES DE LA TOUR GWEN TAYLOR, ANNA WING in SKIRMISHES by CATHERINE HAYES Evgs 8.0. Sat 4.30.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832. Direct from Broadway. Return to London of An Evening With DAVE ALLEN Eves. Mon-Sat. 8 00. FINAL DAY.

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HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606/7 CC 930 4025/6. Grp Sales 379 6061 Evgs 7.30 Sat Mats. 3.0 FRANK FINLAY IN THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S MULTI-AWARD WINNING INTERNATIONAL SMASH HIT AMADEUS by PETER SHAFFER Directed by PETER HALL "TREMENDOUS PLAY GIGANTIC BOX OFFICE SUCCESS." Bernard Levin. Times.

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LYRIC S cc 437 3686 Grp Sales 01-379 6061 Evgs 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5.15 RICHARD BRIERS PETER EGAN Richard Pearson, Pat Heywood Alice Krige IN BERNARD SHAW'S "BUBBLING COMEDY" N.Std ARMS AND THE MAN "AMONG THE GREAT DELIGHTS OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING THEATRE" N.Std. "SPARKLING NEW PRODUCTION" D Tel Alice Krige Most promising Newcomer SWET Awards 1981.

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage) Today 3.00 & 7.45 TRANSLATIONS by Brian Friel

MERMAID TH. Blackfriars, EC4 01-236 5568, cc 01-236 5324. WORLD PREMIERE. Previews from Feb 11. Opens Feb 17. ALEC McCOWEN in THE PORTAGE TO SAN CHRISTOBAL OF A. H. Adapted for the stage by Christopher Hampton from the novel by George Steiner. Directed by John Dexter

NATIONAL THEATRE. S CC 928 2252. FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER / LYTTELTON / COTTESLOE. Excellent cheap seats from 10 am day of perf all 3 theatres. Also standby 45 mins before start. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (inc backstage) £1.10 Info 633 0880. NT also at HER MAJESTY'S.

NEW LONDON cc Drury Lane WC2 01-405 0072 or 01-404 4079 Evgs 8.0 Tues & Sat 3.0 & 8.0 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T. S. ELIOT AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS ADDITIONAL BOX OFFICE (at normal theatre prices): The Ticket Centre (next to Wyndham's Theatre), St Martin's Court, Charing X Road. Group Bookings 01-405 1567 or 01-379 6061. Apply daily to Box Office for returns. Personal and telephone bookings accepted for March/June. LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open 1hr prior.

OLIVIER (NT's open stage). Last perfs today 2.00 & 7.15 MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by Shakespeare. Last perfs Mon Tue Wed 7.15 THE MAYOR OF ZALAMEA.

PALACE cc 437 6834 Andrew Lloyd Webber's SONG AND DANCE A concert for the theatre starring MARTI WEBB WAYNE SLEEP in TELL ME ON A SUNDAY in VARIATIONS Opens March 26. Mon-Fri 8.0. Wed 3.0, Sat 5.45&8.30. NOW BOOKING.

PHOENIX THEATRE (Charing Cross Rd) 01-836 2294/8611. Evgs 8.0. Fri & Sat 6.0 & 9.0 "The audience responded ecstatically... THEY STAMPED, THEY SHRIEKED, THEY YELLED" D. Mail ONE MO' TIME! The Great New Orleans Musical. ONE MO' TIME IS A GOOD TIME' Group Sales 01-379 6061 Ring Teledata. 01-200 0200 for instant confirmed c.c. bkgs 24 hrs personal service available

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 CC 379 6565. Grp Sales 01-836 3962/379 6061. Prestel Bkgs Key 2202324 Mon-Fri 7.30 Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.30 & 8.15 ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO. in Willy Russell's hit comedy EDUCATING RITA COMEDY OF THE YEAR (SWET) AWARD 1980 "SPLENDID THEATRE. EVENING QUITE OUTSTANDING." Time Out. A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED & EXHILARATED." S. Tms RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse

PRINCE EDWARD. Old Compton St. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's EVITA THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL Directed by Harold Prince. Evgs 8.0. Mat. Thurs. (Economy Prices) and Sat at 3.0 Evgs. Perfs end 10.15. S. Box Office 437 6877 C.C. Hotline 439 8499. Group Sales 379 6061 or Box Office. For instant 24 hr. bookings ring Teledata 01-2000200.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. 930 8681. CC Hotline 930 0846. FINAL DAY PAUL DANIELS in IT'S MAGIC "PURE MAGIC." Sun. Mirror "TRIUMPH." Fin. Times. "A WINNER." Variety Mon-Thurs 7.30, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.00. Group Sales 379 6061.

"UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES" A musical of the Flanagan and Allen story. Opens March 4 Prevs Feb 26.

QUEEN'S. CC 01-734 1166. Evgs 8.0, Wed 3.0. Sats 5.15 & 8.30. EDWARD FOX ROBIN BAILEY JAMES GROUT and PRUNELLA SCALES in QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS A new play by SIMON GRAY. Directed by HAROLD PINTER. "CERTAINLY THE BEST PLAY IN THE WEST-END" Observer. "THE MOST ENJOYABLE AND INTRIGUING NEW PLAY THIS YEAR" Spectator. "A LYRICALLY FUNNY PLAY" Times. LAST 3 WEEKS. MUST END FEBRUARY 20.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7, 9, 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. Fabulous new acts. Beautiful new girls. Sensational new thrills for 1982. 25th sensational year!

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564 Lloyd's Bank SHAKESPEARE WORKHOPS 15 to 19 Feb The Later Plays, 1 to 13 March The Tragedies. 11.30 am to 1.15 pm (with lunch break) All seats £1. Presented by the New Shakespeare Company.

ROYAL COURT S cc 730 1745 Prevs Ton't 8.0 Opens Mon 7.0 Sub Evgs 8.0 OPERATION BAD APPLE by G. F. Newman.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1 837 1672/1673/3856 Credit Cards 10 am to 6 pm 01-278 0871/837 7505. Grp Sales 01-379 6061 24 hr instantly confirmed cc 200-0200. THE SMASH HIT by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Mon to Sat 2.30 & 7.30 "Brilliant" Guardian. "Magnificent" BBC. LAST TWO WEEKS OF RECORD BREAKING SEASON

SAVOY. S. 01-836 8888. For credit card bookings, ring 930 0731 (4 lines) 9.30-6.0. Sats 9.30-4.30. Evgs 8.0. Matinees Thurs 3.0. Saturdays 5.0 & 8 45 GERALD HARPER SYLVIA SYMS in FRANCIS DURBRIDGE'S HIT THRILLER HOUSE GUEST WITH PHILIP STONE. Over 350 perfs "A REALLY EXCITING THRILLER IT NEVER RELAXES ITS GRIP." F.T.

SHAFTESBURY S cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Tel Box Office 836 6596. 2nd YEAR NEIL SIMON'S HIT MUSICAL MARTIN SHAW SHEILA BRAND THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG D.A.P.s £4 (Wed Mat. Only) Students £4. Evgs 8.00 Mat Wed 3.00 Sat 5.00 & 8.30. Credit Card Bkgs 930 0731 (4 lines). 9.00-7.00 Sats 9.00-4.30. Reduced Group Bookings. 01-839 3092.

SHAW 01-388 1394. Workshop Production of MACBETH. Evgs Mon to Fri 7.00. Mats Tue, Thur & Fri 2.30 "Imaginative and gripping." TES. Low Prices, Easy Parking.

STRAND THEATRE cc 01-836 2660 01-836 4143 NYREE DAWN PORTER ROY DOTRICE in MURDER IN MIND A Thriller by Terence Feely. Evgs Mon-Fri 8.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.0 Mats Thurs 3.0.

ST. MARTIN'S. CC 836 1443 Evgs. 8 Tue. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 30th YEAR SORRY No reduced prices from any source but seats bkble. from £2.50

TRICYCLE TH Kilburn 328 8626 Eves 8. Guerney Campbell's GANDHI.

UNICORN TH. Gt. Newport St. WC2 836 3334 MOON MILL new play by Joan Aiken. Mystery & suspense for 8-13 yr olds. This Sat & Sun 2.30pm.

VAUDEVILLE. CC 01-836 9988 Evgs 8. Wed Mats 2.45. Sats 5 & 8 GORDON JACKSON in AGATHA CHRISTIE'S CARDS ON THE TABLE SORRY, No reduced prices from any source but seats bkble. from £2.50.

VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE Opens March 11 — Limited Season Previews March 5-10 ELIZABETH TAYLOR in THE LITTLE FOXES by LILLIAN HELLMAN Advance Box Office Open 01-834 1317/8 01-828 4735/6 Credit cards accepted. Group sales Box Office 379 6061

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6 01-834 1317. Evgs 7.30 Mats Tues. Wed. Thurs & Sat 2.45 JOHN INMAN ARTHUR LOWE, IAN LAVENDER in MOTHER GOOSE "Very funny throughout... Must be the cleanest pantomime for years." Fin. Times. Group Sales 01-379 6061 & Teledata 01-200 0200 (24hrs). NOW EXTENDED MUST END SAT FEB 20

WAREHOUSE Donmar Theatre, Earlham St, Covent Gdn. Box Office 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. GOOD by C P Taylor ton't 7.30 pm THE MAID'S TRAGEDY by Beaumont & Fletcher from 8 Feb.

WEMBLEY ARENA cc until Feb 28 HOLIDAY ON ICE new prestn. with ROBIN COUSINS Tues to Fri 7.45. Mat Wed 3. Sats at 2.5 & 8. Suns at 2.30 & 5.30 (No perf Mon). Reduced prices children & senior citis. Book now 01-902 1234.

WHITEHALL 839 6975. 930 8012/7765. CC: 930 6693/4. Group sales 379 6061. ANGELA THORNE & JOHN WELLS ARE DISGRACEFULLY HILARIOUS D Exp in "ANYONE FOR DENIS?" "RESTORES THE SOUND OF GENUINELY IRREVERENT LAUGHTER TO OUR THEATRE" F.T. Matinee today Mon-Sat. 8 15pm Sat Mat 5.00

WYNDHAM'S S CC Charing X Rd "A MAGNIFICENT new production" S. Times ALL MY SONS by ARTHUR MILLER "one of the few great story-telling modern dramas" Obs. COLIN BLAKELY "MARVELLOUS" Gdn. ROSEMARY HARRIS "OUTSTANDING" D. Tel. Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE "THE ACTING IS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER" D. Mail. "ENTHRALLED FROM BEGINNING TO END" S. Tel Mon-Fri 7.30, Sat 4.30 & 8.0. Wed mat 2.30. Box Office 836 3028. 379 6565. Grp reductions 836 3962.

YOUNG VIC (Waterloo) 928 6363. Today 2.0. All seats £2.50. KING LEAR. Ton't 7.30 (11, 12, 13 ... perfs) JOHN MORTIMER'S CASEBOOK.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. Gorilla's A GIRL. LORRAINE (AA) Progs 2.00 (not Sun), 4.10, 6.20, 8.40.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Tarkovsky's masterpiece STALKER (A) Progs 2.10 (not Sun) 5.00, 8.00.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Kurosawa's SEVEN SAMURAI (A) Progs 4.15, 7.40, Daily.

CAMDEN PLAZA. 485 2443. Camden Town Tube. TANNER'S LIGHT YEARS (AA). Progs. 3.05, 4.10, 6.25, 8.45. Ends Wed 10th. From Thur 11th Premiere Run of Carlos Saura's BLOOD WEDDING.

COLUMBIA Shaftesbury Ave 734 5414) Neil Simon's ONLY WHEN I LAUGH (AA) progs 1.50, (not Sun), 3.50, 6.05, 8.25. Late Night Show Sat 11.00.

CURZON. Curzon St., W1. 499 3737. Francois Truffaut's THE WOMAN NEXT DOOR (AA). Eng. subtitles. "This film outclasses all Truffaut's films" ... Film at 2.00 (not Sun), ... and 8.40

DOMINION Tott Court Rd. 580 9562. GENESIS (U) THREE SIDES LIVE ROCK (U) Comp. Progs. ... Matinee's Fri & Sat ... Advance Booking. Reduced prices for Under 16's.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. Seats bookable for evening performance ... night show). Advance box office open 11am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. TELEPHONE BOOKINGS accepted between 11am and 7pm any day. GALLIPOLI (A). Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 Newsreel Leicester Square. GHOST STORY (X). Sep progs daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

GATE BLOOMSBURY. 1 & 2 837 8402/1177. Russell Sq. Tube. 1. MEPHISTO (AA) 2.45, 5.30, 8.15 2. CAMERA BUFF (A) 2.00, 4.30, 6.50, 8.50 Lic'd Bar. Late Night 11p/c HONEYSUCKLE ROSE (A) ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE (AA) Also at 11p/c LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (AA) SOME LIKE IT HOT (A)

GATE CAMDEN 267 1201/485 2443. Camden Town Tb. THE CONFORMIST (AA). 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45. Lic'd Bar. Late Night ... ROCKERS (AA). THE WARRIORS THEY COME (X).

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031. Mayfair HOTEL, Stratton St. Green Park Tb. 5.45, 8.50 ... (AA).

GATE, NOTTING HILL. 221 0220/727 5750. CUTTER'S WAY (X) 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45. Late night 11.15 TAXI DRIVER (X). EASY RIDER (X).

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER (X) Sep progs 12.50, (not Sun) 3.25, 6.00, 8.35 Late Night Show Sat 11.15. Seats bookable for 8.35 prog Mon-Fri and all progs Sat & Sun.

MINEMA. 45 Knightsbridge. 235 4225/6. "GERMANY PALE MOTHER" (AA) (subtitles). Daily 2.35, 4.40, 6.45, 8.50. Ends Wed. 10th Feb. From Thur. 11th Feb. "BREAKER MORANT" (A).

ODEON HAYMARKET. 930 2738. 2771. THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (AA). Sep. progs. Wks 1.30, 4.45, 8.05. Sun 4.15, 7.50. Seats bookable in advance for all Performances (except Mon-Fri Matinees).

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111). For info 930 4250; 930 4259. PAUL NEWMAN, EDWARD ASNER in FORT APACHE — THE BRONX (AA). Sep progs Drs open Dly 12.45, 4.00, 7.15 Late Night Show Fri & Sat Drs Open 11.15 All seats bookable by post or Box Office.

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4 off Piccadilly Circus. 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as Empire, Leicester Square
1 RICH AND FAMOUS (X). Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 Late show Sat 11.15 pm.
2 RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (A) Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Suns), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Sat 11.15 pm.
3 FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER (AA). Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Sat 11.15 pm.
4 EYE OF THE NEEDLE (AA). Sep progs daily 1.00 (not Sun), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Sat 11.15 pm. No Smoking area.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181 Hanna Schygulla in Fassbinder's LILI MARLEEN (AA). (English Sub Titles). Sep Perfs Dly (inc Sun) 2.40, 6.15, 8.20. Late Show Fri & Sat 11.10 Seats Bkble. Lic'd Bar.

SCREEN ON ISLINGTON GREEN. 226 3520 John Heard, Jeff Bridges "CUTTER'S WAY (X) 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00; club show all perfs. Instant membership.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366 TAXI ZUM KLO. (X) 3.30, 5.00 ... club show ... membership).

THE LANE, ST MARTIN'S LANE. CHRISTIANE F (X). (Subtitled Version). For info 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep perfs 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. Late Show Sat 11.15. All seats bookable for 8.15 perf.

EXHIBITIONS

ROYAL ACADEMY, Piccadilly, London, W1. THE GREAT JAPAN EXHIBITION. Until Feb 21. Open 7 days a week 10-6. £2.50 ... Sun till 1.45: £2 concessionary.

ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERY, 43 Old Bond St, W1. 629 6176. 108th ANNUAL WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION. Until 19 Feb. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 Thurs until 7

ANTHONY d'OFFAY, 9 & 23 Dering St, W1. British Drawings & Watercolours 1890-1940/Robert & George.

BRITISH LIBRARY, Great Russell St, London WC1. Famous Books in Science. Until Feb 28. Japanese Popular Literature of the Edo Period. Until June ... Wkdys 10-5. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm free.

BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St W1. 734 7984. PHILIP SUTTON Watercolours.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY, 15 Motcomb St. SW1. 235 9141 ALBERT GOODWIN R.W.S. 1845-1932 From Jan 28-Feb 19. 9.30-5.30 daily Sats 10-5.

COVENT GARDEN GALLERY, 20 Russell St. WC2. 836 1139. Winter Exhibition. Early Watercolours. Dly 10-5.30. Thurs 7. Sats 12.30.

CRANE GALLERY 171a (1st floor) Sloane St, SW1. 235 2464 Americana and English Country Arts: quilts, paintings, etc. ... and its exceptional ... featured in Vogue, Harpers, and House and Gardens. Daily 10-6. Sats 10-4.

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY 178 Brompton Rd. SW3 584 7566 Exceptional Paintings by Sir Matthew Smith, Ben Nicholson, Graham Sutherland, Ivon Hitchens, Alan Lowndes, etc. Daily 10-6. Sats 10-4.

Exhibition of COLOUR PRINTS Etchings & Lithographs from BONNARD TO DE STAEL. William Weston Gallery 7 Royal Arcade Albemarle St. W1.

FINE ART SOCIETY 148 New Bond St, W1. 01-629 5116 JAMES COWIE PAINTINGS EDWARD BARNSLEY FURNITURE

LEFEVRE GALLERY, 30 Bruton St, W1 01-493 1572/3. AN EXHIBITION OF IMPORTANT XIX & XX CENTURY WORKS OF ART. Mon-Fri 10-5.

LEINSTER FINE ART 9 Hereford Rd, W2. 01-229 9985. JOHN HOPKINSON. Recent paintings and drawings. 5th Feb-6th March. Tues-Fri 10-6. Sats 11-3.

MARLBOROUGH 6 Albemarle St, W1 ALEX KATZ RECENT PAINTINGS until 6 Feb. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat. 10-12.30

REDFERN GALLERY. ROBERT YOUNG, an exhibition of New Works, Paintings, Papers, Collages, Drawings and Prints. February 4th-25th. 20 Cork Street, London, W1. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sats 10-12.30.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW1. TURNER AND THE SEA. Until 27 June. SIX PRINTMAKERS. Until 14 Feb ACQUISITIONS 1978-80. Until 28 March. Adm. free. Wkdys 10-6. Suns. 2-6. Recorded information 01-821 7128.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S. Ken. THE ART OF THE RADIO TIMES 1923-1981. Until 21 Feb. Adm. free. Wkdys 10-5.30. Suns 2.30-5.30 Closed Fridays.

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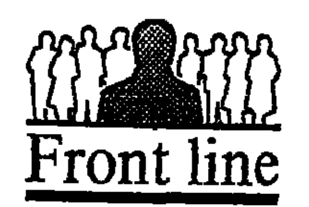
David Pountney

whose production of the Flying Dutchman opens at the Coliseum on Wednesday



Front line

David Pountney and Mark Elder form the team of producer and conductor earmarked by the English National Opera to see the company through the mid-Eighties. But both have had to arrive at the Coliseum rather earlier than intended because of the sudden departure of Sir Charles Groves. Elder has been installed for some time now as music director, and Pountney takes charge of production in midsummer, a year before he expected to be in St Martin's Lane.

Next Wednesday there will be a foretaste of the partnership when the two men work together on the new *Flying Dutchman*. Wagner's early opera is not exactly the easiest one to begin with in this house because the image of the phantom vessel gradually filling the stage from the previous production by Dennis Arundell will be etched on the memories of regular visitors to the Coliseum. Pountney, though, reckons that theatrical taste has moved on since those days and that a new language has to be found for apparitions in 1982.

The Dutchman, normally a three-act opera, will be played at the Coliseum without a break, as Wagner originally intended, although those intentions were not observed at Bayreuth until 1901. It will come out at a little less than two and a half hours, a shade under the length of the average *Rheingold*. Nonetheless, one-act operas are unpopular with public and managements alike: when the curtain goes up the shutters come down on the bars, with a consequent loss in profits. Was there any hassle before deciding on the one-act version?

None, according to Pountney. "I think the present Coliseum management is a little *too* high-minded to let commercial considerations interfere with artistic ones. Mark was keen from the start that there should be no division into acts because he wanted to emphasize the symphonic growth of the piece. I believe that playing the opera straight through must underline the contrast between the storm-swept, epic world of the Dutchman and the cosy domesticity in which Senta lives. Those who had to be persuaded were the designer [Stefanos Lazarides], because achieving the scene-changes without a break is not exactly easy, and Norman [Bailey, who sings the title role]. He'll certainly be earning his fee every night. But we all feel that the raw energy and youth of the work will come over all the more powerfully by playing it in a single act."

Norman Bailey has probably sung in 20 different productions of the *Dutchman* before, including that by Arundell, while the Senta (Josephine Barstow) has sung in only one, which was in Dallas. Is this imbalance the greatest problem Pountney has to face or is it the pictorial magic on stage? "Neither. Norman is a very flexible performer. And 'pictorial magic' is a matter of finding the right images, which are certainly not those of the pre-cinema age in which *The Dutchman* was conceived. When you are dealing with a piece of 'gothic horror', whether it is by Weber or Marschner or Wagner, you have to find your own language through which to interpret it. After that it is just one vast technical effort. Let's just say that the period will be 1840, that the visual impact will be highly romantic without using the traditional methods of romantic opera, and that we shall not be using any cop-out of the 'It-was-all-just-a-dream' variety.

"No. The biggest difficulty is that the Dutchman and Senta scarcely ever address one another. And it is the movement between reality and abstract monologue that trails problems in its wake. The Dutchman, of course, wants somewhere to rest his head while Senta is all for getting up off her chair and going. I think we'll have to take a rather fluid view of the situation — no puns intended.

"Also, we've got to accept the strong associations between Wagner himself and the Dutchman, the tortured being who believes himself excluded from society. It is this very association which lifts *The Dutchman* out of the gothic ruck. You keep turning the pages of the score and discovering Him."

Capital H?

"Wagner would have thought so."

David Pountney's contract at the Coliseum is for five years, which is just about the minimum time to allow anyone to leave his imprint on a large opera house. There are one or two matters which need his urgent attention, including that of the opera ballet, which is one of the weakest elements in the house on the evidence of recent revivals. He will also have to decide how much of the Italian repertory he will tackle himself: the Pountney reputation has been mainly established on contemporary opera and works from Germany and points east.

"I've only dipped my toe in the great ocean of Verdi. *Macbeth*, just the sort of opera, I suppose, that you would expect from someone associated with the East European repertory. If I had a blank page before me then I'd choose to do *Forza* or *Boccanegra*, but there are many other considerations, including what is in the repertory already and what Mark wishes to do. The only partnership worth talking about in an opera house is that between conductor and producer."

John Higgins

Photograph by Harry Kerr

Teleview/Elkan Allan

No hiding place

The already anarchic video business has been thrown into even greater confusion by three new decisions, two from government bodies and one from its most powerful supplier.

The hardware end of the trade has been shaken by a pronouncement by the Inland Revenue that, contrary to the widespread assumption that travelling salesmen, journalists, doctors and others who worked unsociable hours could claim the cost of buying or renting a video as a legitimate tax deduction, there was to be no blanket permission of this kind. "Business expenses must be wholly and exclusively for the purpose of the taxpayer's trade, profession or vocation", announced a spokesperson of the Inland Revenue.

While this is unlikely to deter a million of the people who are expected to buy or rent VCRs during 1982, it may seriously discourage the extra 750,000 in the professional middle-classes, caught between the recent social acceptance of videos and the inroads inflation is making on their overdrafts. Certainly the manager of my local Granada Rental shop, who has been using the promise of tax relief as his most potent clincher for waverers will have to discard one of his strongest arguments for taking the plunge.

Meanwhile, the software side has been thunderstruck by a ruling from the Customs and Excise that, if sustained, will seriously affect many of the video outlets and postal clubs that have sprung up in such profusion that there are now more video shops than bookshops in Britain.

Many of these operate on an exchange basis. You buy your first tape for £39.95, keep it as long as you like or for a fixed period, and then exchange it for another one with a payment of £5, in a typical shop.

Up to now, the shop has charged VAT only on the £5 exchange fee, but the Department has written to the British Videogram Association ruling that retailers must collect the full VAT on the original retail price of a video casette when an exchange takes place, and not just on the exchange fee.

So a shop or club will now be expected to charge not only 75p on the £5 fee, but a further £5.21p, bringing the total up to £10.96p, making exchange schemes absurdly uncompetitive with rental schemes, where the cassette remains the property of the dealer or — increasingly — the distributors.

But these, too, are in trouble. Warner Home Video pioneered a scheme, which Disney and MGM have followed, by which they have refused to sell cassettes, insisting on rental only. The reason is, so that they, and not the dealers, can reap most of the benefit of renting them out.

It is Warner's retreat from the fury this decision caused in the retail trade that has provided the third big shock for the dizzy shopkeepers and librarians. Having come to terms with the rule, imposed only a few months ago, that Warners share the slicing of the profit cake into a dozen pieces (the company's analysts reckoned that there were at least 12 rental transactions for every outright sale of a tape), they suddenly heard that soon they will be able to buy them, after all. The distributors are in future going to reserve only immediate releases for non-sale renting.

This has gone into immediate effect in the United States and is expected to happen here within a few months. So you will, almost certainly, be able to buy *Superman II*, after all, although you will have to make do with renting *Prince of the City*, when it is released to tape, at least for a few months.

Yet another shift in this unstable new industry is the British Videogram's sudden decision to abandon its campaign for a government levy on blank tapes as a solution to the universal practice of copying rented or borrowed tapes, and to pursue the possibility of putting a "spoiler" signal on the pre-recorded cassettes to prevent illegal duplication.

Quoted in the trade newspaper, *Video Business*, AEC's (ex-Lord Grade's managing director of Precision Video), Walter Woyda, estimates that up to 40 per cent of the rentals his films, like *The Eagle Has Landed* and *The Great Muppet Caper*, are on pirated copies. In the same paper, a Hampstead dealer, Tony James, writes that otherwise law-abiding shopkeepers — not him, I hasten to add — regularly pirate tapes, and cites as one reason the poor quality of tapes ordered legitimately. "Sometimes we have to return as many as seven copies out of 10 delivered."

While it is perhaps understandable that an industry that has grown so amazingly quickly as this one should have some problems, many of those besetting it could surely be avoided by stronger self-regulation.

Too many distributors and wholesalers continue to supply outlets they know are pirating their products. A whole flourishing industry built on breaking the law cannot be tolerated by a civilized society. If the number of more-or-less open pirates continues to multiply, the Government of the day will be forced to step in with some kind of licensing system, little as this one likes the idea of imposed regulation on free enterprise. But this may be the only way of eliminating such widespread and blatant breaking of the copyright laws.

In the meantime, the least it can do is to reverse the absurd ruling that VAT has to be paid on the original price of the tape *every* time it is exchanged. Motorists can exchange their cars as often as they like without having to pay VAT calculated on the price of the cars when new. If I exchange my vacuum cleaner for a more recent secondhand model I don't have to pay VAT on the cost of a new Hoover.

The reality is that the growth of video has caught the Customs & Excise, the Inland Revenue and everyone else by surprise, and they have not been able to react flexibly to the biggest new industry in Britain. Perhaps they do not believe it is here to stay. But it is.

Radio/David Wade

Bloomsday to music

The co-production by Radio 3 and Radio Telefis Eireann of *Blooms of Dublin* (Feb 1), Anthony Burgess's enormous radio musical based on Joyce's *Ulysses*, faces me with two problems: first, I am only part way into a second attempt to read the book, the first having ended some years back in defeat of reader; second, I have never found myself able to take in a work of such size and complexity at one first hearing. So what follows can only be the early impressions of someone partially, if now I think more happily, acquainted with the original.

The musical begins where the book begins: before breakfast on top of the Martello Tower — though it takes some time to establish the location if you don't already know it; likewise it ends where the book ends: with Mollie Bloom's long reverie, or a part of it. Between these two points, Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom wander through the business of the day that brings then together by an author's process of selection, truncation and elision — telescoping the action while apparently preserving enough of the landmarks of this odyssey to tie it to its origin.

Although before the half-way mark I had ceased to be able to relate the one to the other, I don't think this had much to do with a strong impression that as it went on the whole affair gained enormously in confidence, impetus and cohesion. The second and final act seemed to me to have taken off into assured independent existence as it swept through Bloom's visions of himself as emperor and the encounter with the formidable Bella Cohen: certainly I sat there in that state of bemused private attentiveness which is a peculiar effect of successful creative radio.

That this occurred owed much to a particularly attractive performance by Donal McCann as Bloom, one which projected both the Irishness of the man and those other traits he had from Palestine by way of central Europe. Burgess's music took several opportunities to point this up, although its predominant mood was romantic, sometimes to the point of pastiche. Curiously I find its first hearing has left very little mark, as if it had served in some way as a vehicle for words and action and had subsequently disappeared.

This may suggest a kind of seamless quality to the production (by Michael Hefferman, with John Tydeman and Paul Murray as his directors) and to some extent that is perfectly correct. There were some very nasty joins in evidence however and they arose from a decision to give the singing and the speaking parts to different voices. It was, for instance, extremely disconcerting to hear Frank Grimes's dry-voiced Dedalus suddenly replaced by Frank Patterson's lush, light operatic tenor. And often enough the singers and the speakers were in a different sound perspective, too. Where one actor sang and spoke (eg Barry McGovern as Buck Mulligan) the effect was better. It would have been worth sacrificing some vocal technique and quality to achieve this throughout.

By comparison with Burgess's Joyce, attempts to translate your standard English classic into radio may seem pretty small beer, although we have seen the job done so very well of late that the results take on lustre of their own. Hallam Tennyson's version of *Tom Jones* is one example. More recently Cherry Cookson's production of Hardy's *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (Radio 4) succeeded splendidly in its adaptation by Jane Beeson. As a playwright, Ms Beeson has a taste for situations of dire emotional misunderstanding or hostility leading to catastrophe and this may have given her the insight to produce such an affecting version of this early, semi-autobiographical work. It was good to hear Jeremy Irons's highly individual voice perfectly scaled down to radio. And there were fine performances, too, from Janet Maw, Michael Maloney and Nigel Stock.

Television/Michael Ratcliffe

Neglected women

The central figure of a Carol Bunyan play, to judge from *A Silly Little Habit* last month and *Out of Step* (Playhouse, BBC 2) last night, is the neglected woman. In the first a lonely widow took to shoplifting as a form of excitement and confessed the pleasure it gave her to a school chum she had not seen for more than 30 years; in *Out of Step*, Valerie (Jacqueline Tong) was the sterile, 32-year-old wife of a boorish estate agent, clearly up to more than showing people round his houses on late evenings at the office. Valerie's excitement was competitive dancing.

The Bunyan woman is memorially flanked, on one side by the aggressive woman — supposedly more fulfilled but in practice equally desperate — and on the other by the contemptible, self-emasculated male, a painlessly charming son or, in Valerie's case, a potential *paso doble* champion from the Abbey National with as much capacity for self-knowledge and connexion as a flake of dried haddock.

But Greg (Albert Welling) stayed sober, and Valerie, after her final miscarriage, had begun drinking, so when Rodney went to Australia and the stunning Cynthia became free, Miss Creighton from the School of Dancing (Gillian Raine) dished Valerie, grabbed Cynthia for the championships and teamed her with Greg. Valerie declined steeply from Martinis to neat gin and was last seen sloshing it first into herself and then all over her bright championship-pink frock on the floor. Sad, certainly.

Miss Bunyan discerns both pathos and absurdity in futility and waste, but she does so unevenly, and just as *A Silly Little Habit* eased itself from an unreal clash of generations into the more comfortable conventions of the old-fashioned matinee play (to be precise, *Black Chiffon* by Lesley Storm) so *Out of Step* was more plausible when she allowed the relationships room to breathe than when she was relating the characters clinically to gadgets, goods and matters of taste. We knew, for example, that Valerie's fertile sister Linda (Carol Leader) was meant to have been corrupted by childbearing, not just because she was too knackered to stay awake to the end of *Knot's Landing*, but because she would even want to: a gratuitous, slightly priggish detail since Linda was dramatically alive and the scenes between the sisters among the best. *Out of Step* was described as a "reworking" for television of *To Come Home to This*, seen last year (but not by me) at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. Directed by Bill Hays, all the women played well. To Mr Welling my sympathies.

Theatre/
Ned Chaillet

Gandhi

Tricycle

Non-violence has always been more effective than its opponents could bear. Whether it was practised by Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, it provoked a violent end. Obviously it was not the weakness of the philosophy, but its success that led to the killings. When Gandhi was assassinated he had succeeded in freeing India from Britain's colonial rule, but the freedom he wanted for each person was the rule of self, and powerful Hindu forces blamed Gandhi for the partition of India and the weakening of their power. When he calmed murderous Hindu and Muslim factions with a fast that endangered his life, he was himself murdered.

Guerney Campbell's lengthy dramatic portrait of Gandhi follows roughly that path, but it begins with a brief flaring of temper. Gandhi returns to his wife (Josephine Welcome) after two years studying law in England and says he would kill her if she has been unfaithful. She laughs and says he will never learn to curb his temper and that is what he immediately does. Miss Campbell then dramatizes his arrival in South Africa, where he is dumped off a train as an Indian, and shows the development of his organizational abilities before he returns to India, many years later.

The progression of events is chronological and poetic, with scenes delivered as lessons from a company more European than Indian.

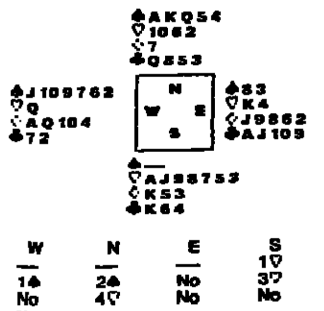
John Castle's generally well — considered portrayal of Gandhi is informative instead of engaging, yet, as in any panorama, the only engagement can be with details. Peter Stevenson's production, on an appropriate set of white sheets is a generally valuable reminder of Gandhi's inspirational importance, but it would have been better to have found a company of Indian actors to tell the story.

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

The best hand for ages

The age at which a bridge player reaches his peak remains debatable. Before expressing any opinion, let me introduce as evidence a hand which was first reported by Alan Truscott in *The New York Times*.

Teams. Love all. Dealer South



North: ♠AKQ54 ♡1062 ♢7 ♣Q853
West: ♠J109762 ♡Q ♢AQ104 ♣72
East: ♠83 ♡K4 ♢J9862 ♣AJ109
South: ♠— ♡AJ98753 ♢K53 ♣K64

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	1♡
1♠	2♠	No	3♡
No	4♡	No	No
No	—	—	—

Opening lead ♣7

North's bid of Two Spades would not be everyone's choice, but no call is entirely satisfactory. A penalty double would be an inferior alternative, because despite the AKQ the spade suit lacks the requisite texture.

Declarer instantly recognized his problem, the lack of a quick entry to dummy. He made his first good decision when he played dummy's ♣Q. East took the ♣A and returned the suit, declarer winning with the ♣K. The play of the ♣Q had disrupted the defence's communications in the club suit. To minimize the chance of East regaining the lead, declarer continued with *the* ♢K. West took the ♢A but the defence could not prevent declarer obtaining a club discard on dummy's top spades. Undoubtedly, a fine example of the expert touch by the declarer, Dougie Hsieh. Hsieh became an American life master on September 27 last year, when he was exactly 11 years, 10 months, and four days old.

The next hand occurred at rubber bridge.

North-South game. Dealer South.

North: ♠KJ4 ♡K932 ♢104 ♣10842
West: ♠Q10976 ♡— ♢KQ53 ♣AK93
East: ♠32 ♡J876 ♢J92 ♣QJ76
South: ♠A85 ♡AQ1054 ♢A876 ♣5

W	N	E	S
—	—	—	1♡
Dble	Redble	No	No
1♠	2♡	No	4♡
No	No	No	—

Opening lead ♣K

North would have been wiser to bid Three Hearts rather than redouble, although with the spades marked on the left the final contract was an excellent one. On the first trick East unwisely played the ♣Q, and West compliantly continued with the ♣3, covered by dummy's ♣8 and West's ♣J, which declarer ruffed.

The play of the ♡A revealed the bad trump break, which meant that it was no longer possible to make ten tricks by a straightforward line. Declarer played a low diamond to dummy's ♢10 and East's ♢J. If East had returned a club, declarer could have succeeded by discarding a losing diamond, but East's return of a trump was less accommodating. Declarer won in hand with the ♡10, cashed the ♠A, successfully finessed the ♠J, and played the ♠K, ruffed by East. This was the five-card ending:—

North: ♠— ♡K9 ♢4 ♣104
West: ♠— ♡— ♢KQ5 ♣K9
East: ♠— ♡J ♢92 ♣76
South: ♠— ♡Q5 ♢A87 ♣—

East recognized that the return of a club or a diamond would enable declarer to make the remainder of the tricks on a cross-ruff, so he played the ♡J. When declarer covered with the ♡Q West found himself in the revolving doors of an overtaking squeeze. If he discards a diamond, declarer can establish the long diamond with one ruff, and if he discards a club, declarer overtakes the ♡Q with dummy's ♡K and establishes dummy's ♣10 by ruffing a club in hand.

The declarer was Louis Ellison, a leading expert in the mid-1950s who, although he does not look it, is now nearly 80.

Superficially the "evidence" seems inconclusive, but we have only examined technique. Like good claret, the bridge expert needs time, to aquire maturity of judgment and experience. On the other side of the coin, both stamina and concentration decline with age. At 50, some players obstinately refuse to recognize the undeniable merits of some technical innovations. Others develop personal whims or quirks.

Naturally, I remain immune from such foibles, even if I do refuse to sit with my back to the room, or lend anyone my pen.

Theatre/Irving Wardle

A monstrous dame

An Evening's Intercourse with Barry Humphries

Drury Lane

Dissatisfied customers might nail this show under the Trade Descriptions Act, as we never get a glimpse of the "widely liked" Mr Humphries; and as for intercourse, we get no further than what the evening's megastar felicitously describes as a "spiritual massage parlour".

The programme, nevertheless, is divided between a session of "foreplay" before achieving its climax with the Dame whose command of British air-waves has virtually pushed Mr Humphries's own name into oblivion. The show runs to past formula with a set of routines by Mr Humphries's other creatures: a bloated introduction from Sir Les Petterson, presenting his credentials as Australia's cultural attaché with a soft-shoe number in co-respondent football boots; a squeaky address from an alternative film maker; and a posthumous monologue from the eternal suburbanite Sandy, sitting in a cobwebbed furniture depository, and confiding that when his widow hels a scrabble seance "I wanted to give the glass a nudge, but I've never believed in the occult".

I am growing attached to Sandy, and even Sir Les grows on you like erisypalis. But these creatures do drone on, scoring up the odd giggle at the expense of "sparkling Tasmanian sherry", but not leaving much behind.

Edna is another matter: partly because she is not so much a joke against Australian pretension as against British collapse (witness her appearance at this address following her nights at the Albert Hall: next stop the Royal Opera House?); and partly because she has taken off with a monstrous independence that might well leave her creator feeling he is being eaten alive.

This time she arrives to fanfares in a gold-trimmed romper suit kicking outsize bowling alley balls out of the way, exuding her own brand of deified banality. Always one for the common touch, she has a cheery word for the "paupies" in the gallery, and announces that she held out for Drury Lane as "I don't want my public stretching themselves ... too many Third World people plucking at you in Shaftesbury Avenue and Molester Square".

The tide of self-satisfied, punning gossip pours on, much of it too fast to hear.

Jazz/Richard Williams

Romantic horn notes

The lyric poet of the cornet, Ruby Braff has been among the most distinguished voices in mainstream jazz since that idiom's renaissance in the middle 1950s. His bejewelled, blue-hour duets with the pianist Ellis Larkins were my first introduction to his work, many years ago, and I remain convinced that his best work is produced in the more intimate settings.

Braff can be found in Dean Street throughout this month, performing in a variety of contexts. On Thursday night, for example, accompanied by the Brian Lemon Trio, he was joined by his fellow American Scott Hamilton, the young tenor saxophonist who has earned a large following for his studiously retrospective style.

Firstly it should be said that the quality of the rhythm section was by any yardstick thoroughly outstanding. Lemon's unusually light keyboard touch does not preclude the bluesier emotions and, if one cannot have Larkins, is just the thing for Braff; a hushed, responsive beat was maintained by Jack Parnell, the drummer, and Len Skeat, the bassist.

The romantic glow of Braff's playing is often counterpointed by the saltiness of his verbal wit, but on Thursday he was in an expansive mood and at one point invited requests. These elicited an impromptu medley of "I Cover the Waterfront", "In a Mellotone" and "Tangerine" in which each transition was judged with instinctive wit to create a vehicle of gathering momentum and density.

An interpretation of "Take the 'A' Train" danced on tiptoe and a lushly mournful "Yesterdays" found Braff at his best, alternating tricky sotto voce runs with Armstrong-like proclamations.

It had been said to me that Hamilton's playing is moving away from the weight of Ben Webster towards Lester Young's mobility, but there was little evidence of this in his literal reading of "When I Fall in Love". The trouble with Hamilton, I think, is that he is too conscious of his stylistic allegiances, and fails to dominate his material as a great improvizer would.

Braff, of course, dominates everything without seeming to flex the tiniest muscle. He is one of those rare improvizers whose every phrase seems worth preserving.

Travel/edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Departures
SKIING					
Zell am Ziller Austria	7 h/b	SkiScene	£150	£23	Mar 3
Avoriaz, France	7 s/c	SkiScene	£109	£19	Mar 6, Luton
Crans Montana Switzerland	7 h/b	SkiScene	£159	£23	Mar 6. Luton
Madesimo, Italy	7 h/b	SkiScene	£149	£15	Mar 13
Val d'Isere France	7/14 f/b	Club Mark Warner	£199/307	£40	Feb 13
Courchevel, France	7/14 s/c	Holiday villas	£134/171	£15/19	Feb 13
Zermatt, Switzerland	7 s/c	Ski West	£121	£30	Feb 13
Courmayeur, Italy	7 h/b	Ski West	£150	£30	Feb 13
Val d' Isere	7 s/c	Ski West	£122	£30	Feb 13
Verbier, Switzerland	7 s/c	Ski West	£129	£10	Feb 20
Meribel France	7 f/b	Ski West	£219	£10	Feb 20
Selva Italy	14 f/b	SmallWorld*	£199	£76	Feb 13
Selva	14 f/b	Small World	£199	£60	Feb 20
Pontresina Switzerland	14 f/b	Small World	£229	£70	Feb 21
Les Arcs, France	7 s/c	Erna Low	£65	£41	Feb 12 by coach
Les Arcs	14 s/c	Erna Low	£95	£38	Feb 12 by coach
Verbier	7/14 f/b	Ski MacG	£195/331	£43/20	Feb 13
Meribel	7 f/b	Ski MacG	£205	£43	Feb 13
Val d'Isere	7/14 fb	Ski MacG	£195/299	£43/37	Feb 13
Val d'Isere	7/14 s/c	Ski MacG	£104/136	£15/20	Feb 13
Chiesa, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£104/150	£30	Feb 13
Chiesa, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£102/142	£30	Feb 27
Bormio, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£123/205	£30	Feb 13
WINTER SUN					
Morocco tour and Costa del Sol	14 f/b	Tjaereborg*	£219	£30	Feb 19, 26. & Manchester
Malta	7/14 n/b	Tjaereborg	£109/119	£45/63	Feb 27
Madeira	7/14 b&b	Tjaereborg	£59/209	£36/43	Feb 17, Manchester
Tunisia	7 h/b	Thomson	£156	£15	Feb 25, Luton
Tunisia	7 h/b	Thomson	£157	£25	Feb 18, Glasgow
Athens	7 b&b	Thomson	£117	£30	Feb 10, Luton
Rome	4 b&b	Thomson	£116	£25	Feb 15, Luton
Salzburg	4 b&b	Thomson	£106	£20	Feb 19, 26 Luton
Malta	7/14 h/b	Portland*	£119/159	£32/40	Feb 12, Luton
Malta	14 h/b	Portland	£159	£40	Feb 13.
Tunisia	7 f/b	Portland	£119	£21	Feb 12, Luton

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Small World telephone 01-240 3233, Portland 01-388 5111 or 061-228 1188. Tjaereborg 01-499 8676 and 061-236 9511

Winter holiday discount news

Snow conditions are the best for years in some of the resorts featured in this week's discount chart. The daily snow reports published on our sports pages give full details.

On the winter sun and city breaks front, Thomson Holidays has new reductions under its "best buy" and "square deal" schemes.

"Best buys" must be booked in February, and offer discounts of up to £20 on a range of three, four and seven-night holidays to Greece, Tunisia, the USSR, Italy, Austria, and on the company's European Highlights coach tour. Flights are in late February and throughout March from Gatwick, Luton, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

"Square deals", offering average savings on brochure prices of £30, are available from 13 airports to Spain, Greece, Tunisia, Hongkong, Malta, Morocco, Portugal and The Gambia. Under the "square deal" scheme the holidaymaker chooses the departure date, airport and resort, and the tour operator allocates the hotel. Prices are final and guaranteed against all surcharges.

Still on the subject of surcharges, Olympic Holidays has announced that it will levy no surcharges on any of its holidays beginning in April. The company is also offering below brochure rates in April to Corfu, Crete, Rhodes and Kos.

S.C.P.

In the desert/Louise Nicholson

Dali dawns amid the dunes

Business travellers were first to explore the rest and recreation possibilities of the United Arab Emirates. Now holidaymakers are discovering the guaranteed sunshine of these desert states.

Everything in the United Arab Emirates is topsy-turvy. Swimming pools are refrigerated to prevent the water becoming too hot; petrol is cheaper than Perrier water; jumbo-loads of plants are flown in to line the arid avenues of Abu Dhabi; golfers carry a patch of green matting round the desert course for teeing off; and, although new highways shoot off into the desert, progress is so rapid that there are no up-to-date maps and almost no road signs.

Nothing is as expected. All five-year-old children know that a desert is flat, yellow and, most of all, empty. But, in real life, the desert has steep-sided dunes of burning orange at sunset, softening through blushing pinks to cream before darkness, when the sky is filled with busily twinkling stars. After the chilly early hours, the dawn sun tints the rippled sand a deceptive ice-blue before rising to scorch down on a Dali landscape with such intensity that reality is heightened and all sense of perspective is lost.

The desert is not empty either. Tiny lizards lurk in the shade of gnarled dwarf trees. A Bedouin passes by, leading his gaily caparisoned camels to big-prize races held at dawn outside the big cities; or perhaps to the early morning camel market at Al Ain. Some Bedouin still live in the desert, not tempted by a free house in the city. Outside their modest huts the camels are tethered next to the air-conditioned Range Rover and Cadillac.

Once, rivers cut between the jagged pink and green marble mountains bordering the desert to the north and east. Now their dried-up beds — or wadis — are littered with boulders, with an occasional tree and frogs sporting across pools of water. Then suddenly appears an oasis of lush palms alive with birdsong, giving shade to flowering oleander.

It is not necessary to ride a camel to visit the desert. Safaris now trek in gleaming white four-wheel-drive Land Rovers, accompanied by a cook. After dinner, prepared on a charcoal fire, sleeping bags are provided on overnight excursions.

Just outside the ultramodern oasis city of Al Ain — complete with museum, university and high-rises — is its mother town of Buraimi. It is one of the few mud towns to have survived the Portuguese, British and now Arab thirst for demolition and rebuilding, perhaps because of its geographic and historical importance. For the trading routes between Asia and the Middle East, Buraimi was the last stop before crossing 1,100 miles of desert — the Empty Quarter. There the 1819 treaty was signed placing the Trucial States under British protectorate.

The town, built entirely of mud strengthened with palm fibre, has an outer wall which encloses small plots, divided by streams and linked by raised paths, like Corbusier's Cité Idéale. The people of Buraimi seem to live in the water, forever washing themselves, each other, their clothes and their brass pots, oblivious to all around them. All is cool and drowsy under the heavy shade of date and coconut palms.

Buraimi is exceptional. Almost everything else in the Emirates is new — including tourism. The seven shaikdoms — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaima, Fujairah, Ajman and Umm al-Qawain — have just celebrated their tenth birthday as a sovereign state. With their new-found affluence from oil, the small ports and oasis towns have changed so quickly that nothing is constant except the heat.

Top: Falcons and fast cars — ancient and modern status symbols side by side in the Emirates. Above: fisherman at Khor Fakhan spread their catch to dry on the sand

In Dubai, a few of the older merchants' houses survive in the Bastakia quarter, with elaborately carved wooden doorways and windtowers designed to suck the slightest breeze down into the house — an early form of air-conditioning. But down on the creek, times have changed. The fine natural harbour on which Dubai's great trading wealth was built has now been cleared of silt, and the majestic dhows, their sails replaced by engines, glide past two walls of sparkling high-rises, almost all banks. Dubai is the Gulf's answer to the Venice of the Doges.

The old spice souk — or market — has also survived the fad for rebuilding. Tiny shops are piled with sacks of cinnamon, nutmegs, dried limes and shrivelled turmeric and ginger roots which spill out into the dimly lit alley, filling the air with the thick sweet perfume of the Orient.

Nearby is the gold souk, each shop window a curtain of shining jewelry of Arab and European design, sold entirely by weight. The official gold rate and the cost of bullion bars is given out regularly on the radio, which is handy for women weary of their decorations. They can saunter to the souk, have last year's styles weighed, and swap them for the latest baubels, paying nothing for the design, only for the extra weight. Gold is cheap because here are no local taxes, and because the Emirates are classed as a developing country, British Customs do not levy duty, but it must be declared and VAT paid.

On the beaches of Sharjah, the beautiful dhows continue to be built in the traditional way — although the Arab foremen now employ Indian labour. By contrast, the new souk offers every modern *electronic gadget. Prices are* low, and again only VAT is payable at British Customs, so it is well worth knowing what the hi-fi and kitchen requirements are before leaving home. Cassettes are only 75p each, so you can buy a complete set of Beethoven symphonies for £6.75.

Preconceptions about dubious standards of hygiene are quashed by an early morning visit to the new Sharjah fruit market, built in the shape of a horse-shoe. The shopkeepers meticulously inspect, wash and polish every item before arranging ambitiously high piles of oranges, passion fruit and tomatoes on round trays. Even potatoes receive the full treatment. Women sit on the floor at the souk entrances sorting and bundling herbs. The Emirates are so cleanliness conscious that all imported food — even sugar — is stamped with a sell-by date; shopkeepers stocking out-of-date food may be sent to prison.

Hotels are the social focus for the large European workforce. They meet for a cocktail, have a barbecue lunch — European or Lebanese food — beside the pool, and enjoy the water sports, including skiing, paragliding, snorkling and windsurfing.

Contrary to popular belief, Arab women hold a strong position in the family, for after a girl marries, she controls the household finances. Perhaps this is why visiting European women are shown more respect than in many countries nearer home. It is quite safe to wander alone, but skimpy shorts and plunging neck-lines are frowned on.

From November to March, the temperature ranges from 75 to 90 degrees; from April, heat and humidity rise uncomfortably. Throughout the year, only one piece of warm clothing is essential — a jumper for the chilly hours sleeping out under the desert sky.

British Caledonian and Holiday Inns organize an "Arabian Nights" package. Seven nights costs £549, nine nights £664, for bed and breakfast only. Supplements are payable for single rooms and half-board. Tours can be tailor-made: Holiday Inn have hotels at Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Khor Fakkan. Contact Nawas Travel, 19 Great Portland Street, London, W1, or Martlet, 94a Brompton Road, London, SW3.

Sharjah Safari Company organize a variety of safaris, from dinner only, to a two-week adventure trek. Day trips should be booked at least a day in advance. Contact Sharjah Tourist Centre, Sharjah. Tel: Sharjah 353738.

British passport holders do not need a visa.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Can spring be far behind?

Most of us are licking our garden wounds after the viciously cold weather of December and early January. It will be months before we can assess fully the damage to our plants but it is obvious that the top growth of many plants has been damaged beyond repair.

We have been waiting for the first belated signs of the awakening year: crocuses, winter aconites and early snowdrops. So far few have ventured forth.

Our winter flowering heathers are a disaster, but curiously our witch hazel, *Hamamelis mollis*, "Pallida", is flowering splendidly, quite unaffected by the frosts. The green catkins of *Garrya elliptica*, which we treasure so much for flower arrangements, are shrivelled and useless, as are the bumper crop of catkins on our corkscrew hazel, *Corylus avellana*, "Contorta".

I have never known since 1962-3 a time when it has been so hard to find enough flowers to make even a small centrepiece for the dining table. Our Christmas roses and other Hellebores, normally giving us some flowers in January, are showing only a bud or two above ground. Even our *Iris unguicularis* (I. stylosa) in the cold frames are not yet in flower.

The green flowers of *Helleborus corsicus* have been around for nearly two months and were quite untouched by the frosts. Green flowers I know are much appreciated by flower arrangers but I have never been greatly attracted by them, taking the simple view that while we have such a choice of foliage in 50 shades of green and other colours, why bother to grow green flowers? However I must admit that these green hellebores have their uses in winter.

According to Sheila MacQueen all hellebores last better in water if the stems are hammered or dipped in an inch of boiling water for several minutes and then stood in deep water for 12 hours or more. She also says that flowers of *H. orientalists* may flag after a few days but will recover if submerged overnight and that one can do this several times.

What we are desperately hoping is that we will have no "false spring" to lure into growth plants that have wisely been biding their time and which could then be cruelly stricken by a late cold spell. All the berries of our local hollies, cotoneasters and pyracanthas disappeared like magic in a week or so in the coldest part of our arctic spell. Yet our plants of *Skimmia japonica*, which were richly laden with berries, have been untouched.

Obviously there is something in these berries that the birds dislike. It should not be beyond the wit of our chemists to find out what it is, possibly synthesize it and put it on the market as a deterrent spray to protect fruit buds and blossoms. Bird-lovers (which my wife and I claim to be) may say indignantly that such a compound might be poisonous, but, if the birds shun the berries, they would, I am sure, shun anything sprayed with the deterrent.

Skimmias are really attractive small bushes with fragrant white flower, but to get berries, you have to plant one male plant, which of course would pollinate several female plants. Skimmias seem able to shrug off the polluted atmosphere of towns, where other evergreens would be less than happy.

So with the dearth of flowers or berries in the garden for our indoor enjoyment we have been even more appreciative than usual of our forced daffodils and hyacinths, cyclamen and various foilage plants. A friend gave us a plant of the variegated form of Schefflera. This is a charming foliage plant with white and green variegated leaves, each divided into eight or nine segments three or four inches long.

We were able to bring into the house the first of a small batch of Suttons "Sweet Scented Mixed" cyclamen that we raised from seed sown in the early autumn of 1980. The flowers are smaller than those of the normal florist's cyclamen but many people find them daintier and more elegant and of course strongly and sweetly scented.

Though I have grown the hyacinth "Pink Pearl" in bowls before, I had not realized it was a more sturdy variety with fat spikes on stout stems than the others we have normally grown over the years — possibly because we did not have it in bloom at the same time as the others. But this year I realized how much more sturdy it is and provided of course that it is given as light a position near a window as possible it needs only the minimum of support. Indeed it was only when the blooms were fully open that we had to put a short stick in the middle of the bowl and one loop of string around the spikes to keep them upright for their last few days.

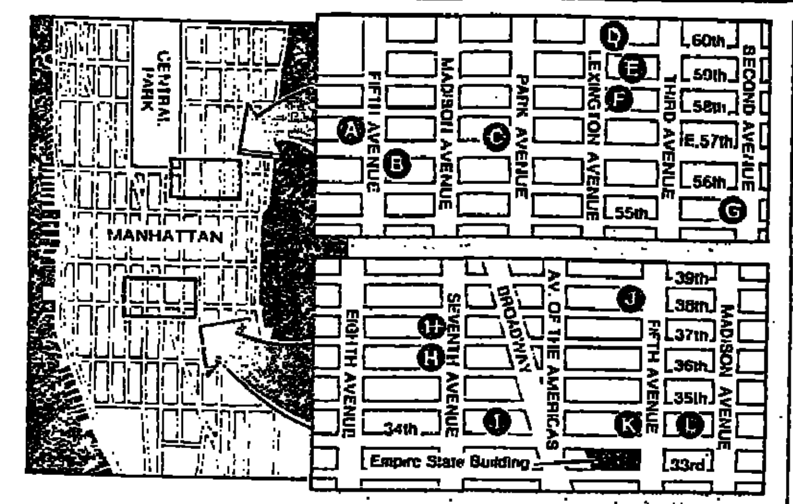
Other varieties have grown taller and needed several canes and more complicated tying. The amount of stem growth made by forced bulbs depends, of course, largely on the amount of light they receive — the more light the less lanky the stems.

But I have now learned that "Pink Pearl", a very old variety that has stood the test of time, has produced several sports which all have the same sturdy habit — "Apollo" pale pink, "Violet Pearl" and "White Pearl" — the last-named they tell me being rather an off-white or ivory shade rather than a glistening pure white.

The frosts have wrought havoc with many a private macadamized drive and the "cowboys" are busy knocking on the doors offering to patch up the pot-holes or, more likely, to resurface the whole drive. Their story is usually the same — by an "extraordinary coincidence" they "happen to have a lot of bitumenized macadam left over from another job" and so can do your drive at what they call a real bargain price. Too often they just put a thin skim of macadam over the drive; it would cost a lot less if the job were done by a local firm and be finished better because local firms have a reputation to keep.

The "cowboys" will be up and off after a week or two with their caravan and lorry to another distant part of the country. If these people offer a three or five year guarantee, show them the door. No reputable local firms can guarantee a drive over any period because they depend on a bulk supplier for their macadam. If the drive is not satisfactory after a reasonable time they will put it to rights — their good name depends on giving good service.

I♥NY Shoparound with Beryl Downing



A, Bergdorf Goodman. B, Tiffany. C, Hammacher Schlemmer. D, Cohen's Fashion Optical. E, Bloomingdale's. F, Alexander's. G, Manhattan Art & Antique Centre. H, Garment Centre wholesale buildings. I, Macy's. J, Lord and Taylor. K, Orbach's. L, Altman's.

The transatlantic shopper hopper

Where on earth would you expect to go shopping in an erotic bakery, buy cheese in an antique shop, which is where a lot of cheese should be, get vanishing tricks from the place where Houdini once shopped and buy a cut-price shirt on a Sunday, standing next to a king who had just slipped his bodyguard? New York, where else?

It's the maddest, baddest, saddest, gladdest place in the world to go for a three-day shopping spree, which is what I was invited to do last weekend, and as you can now do the whole thing, including hotel, for £240 return, it is the modern equivalent of popping over to Paris with one unbeatable bonus — everything's cheaper if you know where to go.

New Yorkers who do know where to go, work on the principle that God created the Gentiles because somebody had to buy retail. The places to try your luck are the wholesale offices in the garment centre, five blocks around 462 Seventh Avenue, and the jobbers in the same area — traders who buy up cancelled and unsold stock and sell to the public at less than retail prices. The best guide to names is a thick tome called *Where to Find it, Buy it, Eat it in New York* by Gerry Frank, available in the city's main book stores at $9.95.

If you are not quite so barefaced about your bargains, the other place to look for discounts is the Lower East Side which, with Chinatown and Little Italy, were the first residential areas on Manhattan Island and the first stepping stone to prosperity for many an immigrant family.

Orchard Street is Mecca, but never on Saturdays, as the traders are mostly orthodox Jews. Go on Sunday morning to get the full flavour — and don't have breakfast. There are so many delicatessen you could do a begel crawl all morning.

I have to admit that, much as I love a bargain, I find the atmosphere in these narrow, crammed shops tends to defeat the whole object of shopping in New York. Now that excellent American merchandise is available in London, much of the pleasure over there is in the ingenuity of the presentation. Moreover, you really do have to know when a bargain is not a bargain — when it has a famous label but last year's collar style, for instance. And really expensive items like furs were pretty much the same price as in London — or definitely not top quality. **Alexander's**, Lexington Avenue at 58th Street, would be a better hunting ground. Sundays noon-5pm, weekdays 10am-9pm.*

Ezra Cohen, though, at the end of Orchard Street at 305 Grand Street, is a paradise of percale and polyester — the discount store where in-the-know air hostesses buy their table and bed linens. Famous name patterned sheets — Wamsutta, Marimekko, Bassetti — are all around £5 each single, £6 double, £7.50 queen and £9 king; pillow cases £4.50 a pair. Solid colours start at £3 single; Fieldcrest Royal Velvet towels are £2.75 hand, £4.75 bath. I am roughly translating from dollars by dividing by two, but even with a fluctuating exchange rate, prices are still about 40 per cent cheaper than for the equivalent here. Sunday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm.

Macy's at Herald Square, Broadway at 34th Street, has the best department store selection of linens, if you don't feel like hitting the discount trail — all beautifully displayed and still at excellent prices. Two things to remember about American bedding — you often can't get valances (which they call dust ruffles) to match sheets — they tend to team with comforters, which Americans use instead of our thicker duvets. The other point is that sheets are slightly larger on all sizes, so you may prefer not to buy fitted bottom sheets if you like them tight and wrinkle-free. Sundays, noon to 5 pm, weekdays, 9.45 am-6 pm.

Orbach's 5 W 34th Street and **B. Altman**, Fifth Avenue at 34th, are totally different cups of tea — Orbach's Quick Brew to Altman's Earl Grey. The former is middle-of-the road fashion at middling prices, the latter is really rather correct, but it does have an entertaining autograph department with some unusual and interesting signatures to delight collectors. Sunday opening noon-5 pm. Weekdays 10 am-6 pm.

Lord and Taylor, Fifth Avenue and 38th, is worth a quick visit while you are in this area. It has a very good handbag department, although not cheap, and a rather gracious atmosphere that British shoppers will probably find soothing. Some Americans call it staid, but as it was the first store on Fifth Avenue in 1903 that is to be expected. To a child anyone over 50 should be dismantled immediately and part-excanged for a push-button model. Weekdays, 10 am-6 pm.

Bergdorf Goodman, further along Fifth Avenue at 57th Street, is very grand and very expensive, as you would expect from a shop whose corner is taken up by Van Cleef & Arpels, diagonally across the road from the place where Odgen Nash said really rich people get their tiffs —from **Tiffanys**. Top labels, top prices. Weekdays, 10 am-6 pm.

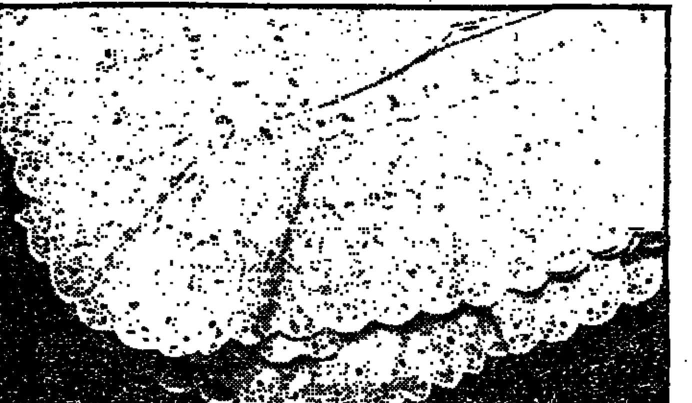
Hammacher Schlemmer, 145 E 57th Street, is *the* kitchen shop. New Yorkers wouldn't dream of going anywhere else for their precision clam openers, their ultrasonic rodent chasers, or professional blood pressure analysers, presumably for those who didn't have the foresight to equip themselves with battery operated flour sifters — enough to give anyone the shakes. Not cheap, but fun. Weekdays, 10 am-6 pm.

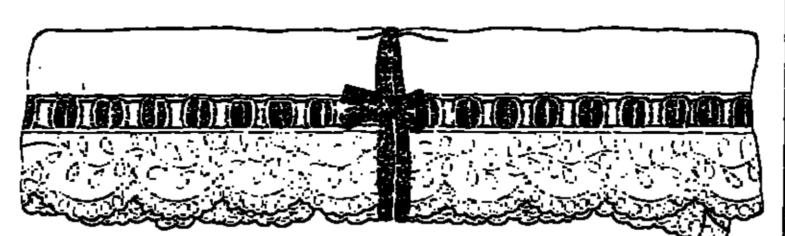
When God blessed America they hadn't invented jet-lag, but if you can't face crossing the Atlantic to do your shopping, don't give up — London is blossoming with new world design talent. Illustrated is a small selection to give you a taste of the flavour of the month.

For your preppy puppy — crazy canine coat in emerald fairisle, £10. Also in blue, gold, red or brown from Harrods.

Jill Feld

Navajo jewelry with a newer, more *delicate air* — necklace in silver and turquoise £49 from Harvey Nichols, SW1.

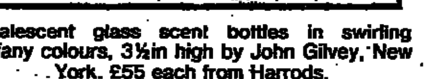




Left and above: Best place in London for American percale bedlinen is Between The Sheets, 190 Kensington Park Road, W11; which imports rolls of percale and broderie anglaise and will make sheets, from £19.55 single, duvet cases from £41.40; 4ft 6in x 6ft 6in to order. Ribbon threaded pillow shams, trimmed on all sides, £18.75 each, pillow cases £17.25 per pair, gift pack of four, rolled £35.75 (£1.65 p&p on most items). They also make up duvet covers to match designer patterned sheet sets — send your bed size and 25p and they will return sample swatches. Telephone 01-727 8768.

Slickly packaged American score cards and pencils in a presentation carrier for bridge fanatics, £8.95. Also a "Chef's Special" version for cooks. From Heal's, Tottenham Court Road, W1.

Duncan Mil



Opalescent glass scent bottles in swirling Tiffany colours, 3½in high by John Gilvey, New York. £55 each from Harrods.

American ceramic cats, £17.50, 14in high, £12.50, 8½in high, from John Lewis, Oxford Street, W1.

Bloomingdale's, 1000 Third Avenue at 59th Street, you simply cannot miss. Innovative and exciting, it develops a lot of its own merchandise with suppliers all over the world — the next promotion is $5m worth of products from the Phillipines from April 14 for six weeks. Look at the "main course" concourse of household shops, at the several handbag departments and at the hosiery—pure silk tights in pale pink, grey, beige at $28.50 a pair, control-top tights, slightly elasticated at the top to smooth away hippy bulges, $3.50 (also available in other stores—why don't we have them here?). The store is so certain of its snob-appeal that it doesn't even bother to put its name on its carrier bags any more. Sunday opening, 10 am-5 pm. Weekdays, 10 am-6 pm.

America Hurrah, 316 E. 70th Street, near Second Avenue, is worth a taxi trip if you are craving a real antique American patchwork quilt. They have an amazing selection, all in excellent condition and collected by Kate and Joel Kopp, who have specialized in American folk art mainly from New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Many are nineteenth century — a superb mid-century log cabin quilt was about £400 and there is a big selection of 1920s and 30s quilts at £200 to £300. Open Tuesday to Friday 12-7, Saturday 12-6.

Funchies, Bunkers, Gaks and Gleeks, would you believe, is at the Manhattan Art and Antique Centre, 1050, Second Avenue, the nearest thing to Grays Antique Market in London. The odd name was invented because Joe Stamps got confused at auctions too often with other Stamps and wasn't about to pay for their mistakes, too. He and his partner Al Peacock (comes from Surrey, went to RADA but didn't like actors, became a social worker but didn't like the poor) are nothing if not eclectic and have a fascinating collection of decoy ducks, quilts, bric a brac, Autolycus trifles and cats, (Joe collects living, breathing, polydactyl cats, too — he has five. Weekdays, 11-6, Sunday 12-6.

Cohen's Fashion Optical, 767 Lexington at 60th on the corner next to Bloomingdale's have several branches around the city and a selection of 4,000 frames, including those by top Eurpean designers, and 500 soft contact lenses in stock. Prices are about a third less than in Britain. Weekdays 9 am-7 pm, with branch variations. Uncomplicated prescriptions can be made up within an hour.

And that is what shopping in New York is about. You put your money where the service is. If it takes more than an hour, you could be earning interest on it.

TWA's weekend packages, three nights in a hotel, are from £240 at the Evecutive Hotel, or £264 for the New York Sheraton, Barbazan Plaza or Summit (all first class) and £280 for the New York Hilton, Waldorf Astoria or Vista Internationl (de luxe). Prices will rise after March 26. If you travel independently and aren't counting the cost, try the Mayfair Regent, 610 Park Avenue at 65th, from $115 a night, double. I stayed there and found it elegant, comfortable, friendly and with an ingredient often lacking in New York — charm.

* Main opening times have been given throughout. Many stores have late-night shopping at least twice a week. The main one is Thursday, often to 8.30 pm.

Tips, traps and taxis

Shopping in a strange city, no matter how exciting, is never entirely without pitfalls, so take note of a few traps and tips to make New York spending simpler:

The price displayed is not the price paid. They add 8¼ per cent state tax on everything, including food, over the counter or in restaurants. Take a calculator — or make it easier by adding 10 per cent and be thankful when the final bill is less than you expected.

New York taxi drivers speak no known language and would not tell you where anything is, even if they knew, which they don't. Ours even took us to the wrong hotel, and as Peter O'Toole patronized it for a drink while we were there, it was not exactly undistinguished. Always give precise directions — Lexington between 65th and 66th, for instance. More, they will not give change for anything more than a $5 bill and have notices in the cabs saying so. I am sorry they live such hazardous lives that they dare not carry a lot of money around, but if I did not love London cabbies too much to let them go, I would start a campaign to export them. Every city should have one.

American Express dollar cheques are *not* just like currency, as advertised. Many places will accept them and give change, but Macy's wouldn't do so without identification — *it is the store policy*, said the sour matron on the Calvin Klein shirt counter, who made me feel like a criminal for not having my passport with me. American Express themselves were not too keen on advancing money just on my AE card either, but, oddly, accepted my union card as proof of honest toil — NUJ, NUJ, clink, clink.

On the credit side, Personal Shoppers are a wonderful American institution and will save an enormous amount of time in weariness trudging from floor to over-heated floor. The big stores have so many departments at different price levels it would take for ever to go through all the possiblities to find the perfect sweater to match a skirt, for instance. Call on a personal shopper and she will do your searching for you, coming back with, say, six possibilities at different prices. The service is free and is available whether you are looking for one item or a whole summer's wardrobe.

Mostly it is best to make an appointment with a personal shopper. Bloomingdales have three types. At His Service, for men, At Your Service, mostly women's clothes, and The Beatrice Dale Personal Shopping Service, for household goods as well as clothes. At Macy's the service is called Macy's Buy Appointment.

At Bergdorf Goodman there are five shoppers in the Miss Bergdorf Now department on the fifth floor who will shop throughout the store for you and if you are in ther name-dropping league Elie Throux deals with the European collections — Ungaro et al.

The average tourist wouldn't think of buying furniture abroad because of the transport costs, but as a friend recently furnished her London flat with luxurious American sofas which, including shipping, cost half as much as they would have done here, you may like to know the secret.

The drill is to look around the stores, take notes of the style numbers and all details on the price tickets and then go along with your dossier to James Roy Incorporated, 15 East 32nd Street, between Madison and Fifth Avenue, on the fifth floor. His prices are guaranteed to be at least a third less than American retail prices, which means an even greater saving on the British price. He ships lamps, beds and furniture for dining, living and bedrooms to anywhere in the world.

Drink/Pamela Vandyke Price

A taste of the regions

A spring break can include a wine region and, as the weather may not always encourage lingering in vineyards, here are suggestions for other places of interest, plus bottles to try while you ponder the travel brochures. A little advance reading is invariably useful and an informed bookshop, such as John Sandoe, Blackmans Terrace, London, SW3, can advise on the practical worth of the many wine and travel books now in print. Peter Dominic's pocket guide, *Visiting Vineyards*, is free from their branches or headquarters at Vinter House, River Way, Harlow, Essex.

Barcelona, rich in art treasures, also offers much to the wine-lover. In bars and as aperitifs the Catalans drink their excellent sparkling wines rather than sherry and the establishments of Cordoniu, Freixenet, Monistrol, well-organized to receive visitors, are less than an hour's drive away. At Vilafranca del Penedès, one of the historic towns, there is a fine wine museum (which also has a bar) in a former mansion, meriting at least a couple of hours' viewing.

Here the great name is Torres, a family firm, world-famous both for their quality wines and for the adventurous work of Miguel Torres Junior, whose plantations in Chile and, even more creatively, the high Penedès where Riesling is now grown, have attracted the attention of all great wine authorities. Torres wines are widely available in Britain and they do not release their reds until these are beginning to be mature. Watson's Wines of Spain, 2 Norfolk Place, W2, have the 1976 Viña Magdala for £3.76. This, made from the Pinot Noir and Carineña, The former classic grape slightly predominating, has a gentle allure and velvety after-taste, the Pinot Noir providing the breeding, the Carineña the touch of sturdiness. This, rather than any suspiciously low-priced Burgundy, would be good with roast hare or rabbit, end-of-season game casseroles or, even, that slightly problematic food, a ham or gammon joint.

The Loire Valley is a chaplet of historic houses and castles but anyone staying near Angers should also try to see the Cointreau establishment, on the fairly new industrial estate — a modern installation as elegant as the liqueur, with well-organized tours around. Uninhabited châteaux can seem melancholy but Brissac, where good wine is made and Montgeoffroy, with all the furniture specially designed when the beautiful house was built, are still lived in and so is Cheverny, where the hunting museum, pack of hounds and enormous curlicued hunting horns will probably interest any younger members of the family.

Around Cheverny the "little" wines are, nowadays, pleasing baby classics and the Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Rd, SW10 — also in Paris — have two Cheverny VDQS wines from Jean Gueritte. The 1980 white is made from the Sauvignon, light, fresh and with the slight smell of white currants that this grape can emit when coming from cool vineyards. The red is made from the Gamay — Loire Gamays, say the locals, used to be sent "somewhere further south" in huge quantities before controls were tightened. Its mouth-filling fruit makes another light, pleasant regional wine. This Gamay would be agreeable with any everyday fare requiring a red wine. From a toasted cheese sandwich to veal and ham pie, the Sauvignon would be a good apéritif as well as partnering salmon mousse — or fish fingers. Both cost £2.95. California is a breakaway region for many these days and even visitors whose schedule does not include a tour of some of the wine areas, should not miss the Christian Brothers' Collection at the Wine Museum of San Francisco, 633 Beach Street, almost adjacent to Fisherman's Wharf. It is a well-designed modern building, has admirable displays and frequently changed special exhibitions, with dedicated and informed staff to consult at need.

A Napa Valley red that recently impressed many is the 1977 Clos du Val. Many California red wines, especially those that stress the Cabernet Sauvignon, tend to be aggressive — and too high in alcohol for the bouquet to emerge. Clos du Val was planted in 1972 and the wine-maker is Bernard Portet, who grew up at Château Lafite-Rothschild, where his father was maitre de chai until his retirement, and whose brother is wine-maker for Taltarni in Australia, He thus possesses the wisdom of both the old and new worlds of wine.

The 1977 Clos du Val is 87.5 per cent Cabernet Sauvignon but, significantly, the remainder is Merlot, giving the wine charm plus its excellent balance and delicate spiciness. Open or, ideally, decant it several hours before drinking. This is a truly fine wine but it does not ape claret, although it would be interesting to serve (blind) alongside a red Bordeaux of the same vintage and see what views were expressed. As some of the finer California wines are both costly and virtually on quota because of the demand, this is a bargain at £6.82, from Avery's, Park Street, Bristol.

The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

All puffed up

As I was saying last week, home made puff pastry with its 730 paper thin buttery layers, is the foundation of all sorts of elegant and often inexpensive dishes. Try filling golden puff cases with lightly cooked shreds of leek, carrot and celery, and a little butter sauce, and see if this is not as delicious a first course as you will meet anywhere.

Later in the year, use the same treatment for steamed asparagus tips. Or, experiment with seafood, meat, and poultry fillings, varying the sauces appropriately.

Squares, rectangles and diamond shapes waste less pastry than the usual round vol-au-vent cases, though there will still be some offcuts of raw pastry. Stack the trimmings neatly — never screw them up in a ball — so that they can be rerolled to make cheese straws or palmiers.

The detailed instructions for cutting and baking the puff pastry which follow in the recipe can be adapted to make larger or smaller cases of any shape.

Feuilletées de legumes d'hiver

Serves four

400g (14 oz) puff pastry

1 egg, beaten to glaze

For the filling

110 g (4 oz) carrot

110 g (4 oz) celery

225 g (8 oz) leek

30 g (1 oz) butter

Salt and fresh ground white pepper

For the sauce

2 egg yolks

1 teaspoon lemon juice

110 g (4 oz) butter

Salt and freshly ground white pepper

Roll out the pastry on a cold, lightly floured surface to a rectangle about 20 by 40 cm (8 by 16 inches). Using a ruler, and a metal cutting wheel in preference to a knife which may drag the edges of the dough, trim the rectangle neatly. Divide the sheet of dough into eight 10 cm (4 inch) squares. Dampen a heavy baking sheet by sprinkling it with water and arrange four squares of dough on it, spacing them well apart. Touch the edges of the dough as little as possible. Brush the top of each piece of positioned dough with water and place a second square on top. Avoiding the edges, press them lightly together with your fingertips. Chill the prepared pastry well.

Again avoiding the edges of the pastry, brush the top of each square liberally with beaten egg. Prop a wire drying rack about 5cm (2 inches) above the baking sheet with suitable oven proof objects — at last a use for those stainless steel egg cups. Bake the pastry above the centre of preheated hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 25 minutes, until well risen and golden. Puff pastry is temperemental stuff and the restraining rack prevents the odd maverick piece from rising too high and toppling over.

Cool the pastry on a wire rack until it is cold enough to handle then carefully pull the tops off the *feuilletées*. Using a sharp pointed knife, cut away any uncooked layers in the centre, taking care not to break the fragile side walls. Return the cases to a very cool oven (110°C/225°F, gas mark ¼) for five to 10 minutes to finish drying.

To prepare the filling, cut the carrot, celery and leek into very fine *julienne* strips about 5cm (2 inches) long. Melt the butter in a heavy-based pan and add the vegetables. Cook them on a low heat, shaking or stirring the pan from time to time, until the vegetables are just soft, but not mushy or brown. Season them to taste with salt and pepper.

To make the sauce, beat the egg yolks in a saucepan with the lemon juice and six tablespoons of water on a very low heat until the mixture is thick and light. Melt the butter in another pan, then whisk it, a little at a time, into the egg mixture. Continue whisking until all the butter has been added and the sauce has thickened a little. Season it to taste with salt and pepper.

To assemble the dish, put a hot puff pastry base on each warmed plate and divide the vegetable mixture between them, letting a few strands of vegetable spill over the sides. Pour a little sauce into the centre of each case, and a little on the plates beside them. Top with the pastry lids and serve immediately.

The pastry cases for this dish may, of course, be baked in advance and reheated. The vegetables must be cooked at the last moment, but can be prepared in advance and kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator. The sauce needs last minute attention, but with the help of a food processor, which allows you to pour boiling butter into the egg and water base, it takes only moments to make.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 4: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, took the chair at the Export Conference which was held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester and in the afternoon visited the Ancoats Youth Centre.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant Commander Richard Buckley, RN.

The Queen will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance Service at Westminster Abbey on March 8.

The Prince of Wales will be admitted to the Freedom and Livery of the Pewterers' Company at Pewterers' Hall, EC2, on March 10.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall, followed by a presentation service at Westminster Cathedral, on March 10.

The Duke of Kent, patron of the Leukaemia Research Fund, will attend a charity greyhound race meeting at White City Stadium on March 30.

The Duchess of Kent, patron of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, will attend a members' dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, on March 31.

Princess Alexandra will take the Lord High Admiral's Divisions at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, on April 7.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. A. L. Simson and Ms H. E. Mallinson
The engagement is announced between Peregrine Anthony Litton, second son of Brigadier and Mrs E. C. L. Simson, of Chilbolton, Hampshire, and Hilary Eila, younger daughter of Sir Paul Mallinson, Bt, FRCP, of Bembridge, Isle of Wight and Eila Lady Mallinson, of The Gateways, London, SW3.

Mr J. D. Carrington and Miss J. M. Caplin
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. J. Carrington, of London, N14, and Judy, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Caplin, of London, NW11.

Mr R. O. B. Cooper and Miss M. J. Holland
The engagement is announced between Oliver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. B. Cooper, of Bricett Hall, Great Bricett, Ipswich, Suffolk, and Miranda Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. B. B. Holland, The Windmill Inn, Pitch Hill, Ewhurst, Nr Cranleigh, Surrey.

Mr A. H. Hope and Miss R. J. Johnstone
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Hugh Hope, of Fosters, Mattingley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Rosanna, daughter of Major Ian Johnstone, of Brixton Deverill, Warminster, Wiltshire, and of Mrs Susan Day.

Dr K. R. Mayne and Miss D. M. Staunton
The engagement is announced between Keith, son of Mr and Mrs K. J. Mayne, of Wimbledon, London, and Donna, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Staunton, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr G. M. Mercer and Miss J. M. Rochfort
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, son of Commander and Mrs R. H. Mercer, of South Milton, South Devon, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Rochfort, of Broad Marston, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Mr J. Parkin and Miss A. L. C. Adams
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs P. D. Parkin, of Birkenshaw, Bradford, Yorkshire, and Lesley, daughter of Mr A. D. D. Adams, of Surbiton, Surrey, and Mrs E. R. Adams, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr D J Selig and Miss A J Brady
The engagement is announced between David Julian, second son of Mr and Mrs Martin Selig, of Melbourne, Australia, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Brady, of 16 Selwood Terrace, London, SW7.

Mr C E Spencer and Miss N K Katrak
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs G E Spencer, of Surbiton, Surrey, and Nicola, elder daughter of the late Mr H S Katrak and Mrs M Katrak, of Beech, Hampshire.

Marriages

Dr D. Ebrahim and Mrs I. Brinley-Richards
The marriage took place quietly on January 23 at Hillmorton Parish Church, near Rugby, between Dr Donald Ebrahim and Mrs Ivy Brinley-Richards.

Group Captain G. H. Pirie and Mrs J. Hugill
The marriage took place yesterday in St Faith's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, between Group Captain Gordon Pirie and Mrs John Hugill. The Dean of Westminster officiated, assisted by the Rev Alan Luff. A reception was held in the Jerusalem Chamber.

Luncheon

Association of British Herb Growers and Producers
The Association of British Herb Growers and Producers held a luncheon at the House of Commons yesterday, by courtesy of Mr John J. Wells MP, in honour of Lord Ferrers, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Reception

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Baroness Phillips, was present at a reception given at City Hall last night by the Lord Mayor of Westminster for the Westminster winners of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology in 1980 and 1981. The other guests included: The Hon Peter Brooke, MP, Mr John Wheeler, MP, Mr Derek Allen, Mr Geoffrey Edwards and Mr Keith Grant.

Service dinner

HMS Royal Arthur
Mr John Garnett, director of the Industrial Society, was the guest of honour at a guest night dinner held in HMS Royal Arthur, the Royal Navy's Petty Officers' Leadership School, at Corsham, Wiltshire last night. Commander C. R. Green executive officer of the establishment, presided.

Dinners

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785
A dinner was held at the Army and Navy Club last night to celebrate founders' day and to entertain members of the Admiralty Board. Admiral Sir David Williams presided and the other speakers were Mr Peter Blaker, MP and Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi.

Manorial Society of Great Britain
Mr Robert Smith, Chairman of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, welcomed members and guests at a dinner held at the Carlton Club, London last night. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu was the guest speaker. Among those present were:
Lord Sudeley, Mr C H Bird, Miss C Cartwright, Mr H A S Cartwright, Mr and Mrs T R Clark, Miss A C Donovan, Mr M Farrow, Mr N J Fisher, Dr D McCarthy, Mr S Roney, Dr G D Teall and Mr M Wynne-Parker.

Association of Lancastrians in London
The Association of Lancastrians in London held a City dinner last night at the Porter Tun Room. Mr Peter Armitage was in the chair and Mr John Minshull-Fogg and Mr W. M. Fernie also spoke. Among those present were:
Sir John and Lady Tuney, Sir Desmond and Lady Heap, Colonel Sir Eric and Lady St Johnston, Sir Robert and Lady Somerville, Mr and Mrs Herbert Butler, Judge Pigot, QC, and Mrs Pigot and Mrs Minshull-Fogg

Alexandra Rose Ball

The Alexandra Rose Ball will be held on Thursday, May 20, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W1, from 8.30 pm to 2.00 am. Tickets are available at £25.00 each, including dinner and a lucky numbered ball programme, from Mrs B Weston, 1 Castlenau, Barnes, SW13 9RP. The chairman of the commmittee is Lady Bellinger and the junior committee is jointly organized by Miss Sarah Frampton and Miss Clare Bardsley.

Army undergraduate awards

The Army Undergraduate Awards Board has awarded bursaries to the following from the Lent Term 1982:
J J Brade, St Catherine's Coll, Oxford. M E D Broderman, City of London Poly. G T Butler, St John's Coll, Cambridge. N D Embleton, East Anglia Univ. A G Gee, Sheffield City Poly. C E M Guinness, Exeter Univ. J H R King, Edinburgh Univ. M Middlemiss, Christ's Coll, Cambridge. T J Parkman, St Anne's Coll Oxford. E T Watson, Lincoln Coll, Oxford. J M G Willatt, St Catharine's Coll, Cambridge. D A Wombwell, Aston Univ

Move on church repair charges

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England's right to charge certain landowners for the cost of repairs to the local parish church should be phased out over the next 20 years, according to an official recommendation which will be debated by the General Synod later this month.

The standing committee of the Synod wants the church to respond positively to a Law Commission proposal favouring the eventual abolition of what is called "chancel repair liability". That ancient custom, enforceable in law, gives parochial church councils the right in some cases to send the bill for structural repairs to owners of land who have inherited that liability in their title deeds.

Two years ago a case arose of a farmer who found himself liable for about £20,000 of repairs. He claimed that he knew nothing of the liability at the time he bought the land.

Many landowners have accepted the liability, which is a factor taken into account in assessing the value of the freehold. Some of them, such as Oxford and Cambridge colleges, perform their duties with alacrity. But for historical reasons it is quite possible for an owner of land, even a mere householder, to have a legal liability of which he knows nothing.

The original responsibility of the landowner, who may also have been the patron of the living of that parish, may have been divided in many directions if the land was sold in parcels. Each subsequent owner of such a parcel becomes liable for the whole repair bill, if the local parish church decides to pursue it.

The synod will be advised to seek the abolition of this right only gradually, as to end it suddenly might seem to be a form of confiscation of an asset which belongs to local churches. Parliament, which would be required to pass an Act in the light of recommendations from the Law Commission, might object to proposals which appeared to be confiscatory.

The standing committee is known to fear that undue emphasis in this reform might draw attention to a right which has in many cases been allowed to lapse, usually through ignorance, and that public debate might stimulate local church councils to make claims

□ A £500,000 appeal fund has been launched to save a Norman round church in Northampton (a correspondent writes). It is one of only four surviving Norman round churches in Britain and church authorities say that unless the money is raised it will be in ruins within 25 years.

The Duke of Kent with members of the Ancoats youth centre yesterday

Duke sees how police help the young

From John Chartres, Manchester

The Duke of Kent saw another side of the much criticized Greater Manchester police yesterday when he visited the Ancoats youth centre, which is run by the force as part of its community relations programme.

He met some of the 1,200 members, most of whom live in the poorer areas on the north side of the city and who are provided with facilities for sports ranging from boxing to sub-aqua diving.

Founded as the Ancoats Lads' Club in 1889 by a local businessman, the centre had become so badly vandalized by 1980 that it was closed. Mr James Anderton, the chief constable of Greater Manchester, invited his community relations officers to see if they could help.

With finance from the Inner City Partnership Fund, the building was reopened last June and boasts some of the best equipment in any youth centre of its kind. An inspector and six constables, three of them women, staff the centre permanently and many other officers give their services voluntarily as instructors.

Senior officers said yesterday that they regarded work at the centre to be an important part of the training of cadets and young constables on community relations work, the standard of which in the Greater Manchester force has been both praised and criticized since the Moss Side riots last summer.

The police hope that a similar centre might be established in the Moss Side area.

Works by Breughel and Goya fail to find buyers

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Old Master prints were fetching rather unpredictable prices at Sotheby's yesterday. The potentially most expensive lots failed to sell. The only complete etching by Pieter Breughel the Elder, "Landscape with the Rabbit Hunters", was bought in at £20,000 (estimate £20,000 to £25,000), and a good, but not outstanding set of Goya's "Los Caprichos" was bought in at £18,000 (estimate £25,000 to £30,000).

In contrast, some rather off-beat rarities were picked out for intense competition. Four rare drypoints of trophies by an anonymous sixteenth century printmaker known as the "Master of the Year 1515", printed on a single sheet of paper, sold for £6,380 (estimate £1,500 to £3,000).

Other examples were the £3,300 (estimate £700 to £1,000) for a fine impression of a tiny Adriaen van Ostade etching of a "Peasant with his hand in his cloak" and the £3,190 (estimate £1,600 to £2,200) for "Two men on the road", a landscape etching by Jan van Brosterhuisen, a rare and little known contemporary of Rembrandt's. The top price in the sale was £14,300 (estimate £11,000 to £14,000) for a setr of "The Small Passion by Dürer.

At Christie's sale of carpets and textiles condition was the factor of overriding importance to bidders. A fine antique silk Tabriz carpet was sold for £37,800 (unpublished estimate £32,000 to £38,000), but the other potential moneyspinner, an antique silk Kashan carpetwas bought in at £36,000. That was main contributor to the 50 per cent unsold total. Christie's said later that they were negotiating a private sale.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Lord Trend to be president of the Royal Commonwealth Society in succession to Mr Malcolm MacDonald, who died last year.

Mr Nicholas Lloyd, deputy editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, to be editor of the *Sunday People* in succession to Mr Geoffrey Pinnington, who is retiring on April 3.

Sir Douglas Black, to chair a working party on bone marrow transplantation. Other members to be Dr G. M. Komrower, Dr N. D. Compston, Professor J. S. Malpas, Dr I. W. Delamore, Professor A. Jacobs, Professor D. A. G. Galton, Professor E. J. Holborow, Dr C. C. Entwistle, Professor G. C. Jenkins, Dr A. Barrett, Dr R. W. E. Watts, Dr A. McGregor, and Miss D. E. Millward.

Mr Norman Hardyman Under-Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security and a former Under-Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is to be Secretary of the University Grants Committee from March 15.

Colonel Sir John Gilmour, to be Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

£1m boost for films in region

By Kenneth Gosling

Against a backdrop of the rapid decline in film exhibition throughout Britain, the British Film Institute yesterday announced its biggest ever funding to the regions.

For the first time in its history its cash grant to regional organizations tops £1m; in particular, the grants to regional arts associations are up by nearly 21 per cent to £613,000, enabling them to maintain their programmes of work in film production, exhibition and education.

The institute's grant from the Government for 1982-83 is up by about £600,000 to more than £7m. The regional increases have been met partly by cutting back on the institute's own in-house activities.

It is in line, however, with its policy of rethinking and regenerating its system of support for film exhibition.

The particular beneficiaries will be the Bristol Watershed, the Bradford Film Theatre and the *Derby Metro, with increases of* 150, 95, and 40 per cent respectively.

The institute has also recognized the importance of the Edinburgh International Film Festival with an increase in grant of 35 per cent. The only other area outside the regions to get an increase is the preservation work of the National Film Archive. The Government has made a special capital grant of £100,000 towards the cost of supplementing the archive's now heavily overflowing acetate film storage vaults.

But in spite of a further £100,000 to transfer deteriorating nitrate film to safety stock, the total preserving budget of £675,000 is calculated to be less than half that needed to save the national film heritage.

Birthdays today

Mr Frank Muir, the writer and broadcaster, who is 62.

Lieutenant-General Sir Clarence Bird, 97; Mr Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh, 77; Mr Ian Findlay, 64; Lord Gibson, 66; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, 68; Sir Antony Hornby, 78; Miss Susan Hill, 40; Wing Commander R. A. B. Learoyd, VC, 69; Prebendary Dewi Morgan, 66; Professor A. M. Neville, 59; Mr John Pritchard, 61; the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, 78; Sir Bruce White, 97.

25 years ago

From The Times of *Monday* February 4 1957

Nicosia, Feb 3.—A government statement today says that reliable information has been received from many sources that during this week the terrorists plan to devote all their remaining resources to creating as much termoil and disorder in Cyprus as possible.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR F. T. C. CARTER

Modern methods of teaching foreign languages

Professor F.T.C. Carter, Professor of modern languages in the Department of European Studies, Loughborough University of Technology, died of a heart attack on January 30. He was 45.

Frank Carter was a Midlander, educated at King Edward School, Edgbaston, Birmingham University and University College, Bangor. He joined the University of Loughborough as a lecturer in 1967, was promoted to a senior lectureship in 1974 and became Professor of German in 1976.

Previously, he had taught at Manor Park Grammar School, Nuneaton from 1958-63, and at Highbury Technical College, Portsmouth from 1963-67.

Deeply concerned with advanced language teaching and techniques he was a major exponent of the use of audio-visual material and a pioneer in the teaching of modern European studies in Britain. He took a leading part in national discussions on the subject. Carter was the author of an important German course for undergraduates and, in collaboration, had worked on specialist dictionaries, translations, and the use of European television for advanced language studies.

Frank Carter was a man of pleasant disposition, outgoing and with a wide circle of friends. He held the respect and confidence of all he worked with, staff and students alike.

He leaves a widow and two children, to whom the university extends its deepest sympathy.

MR SIGMUND POLLITZER

A correspondent writes:

Sigmund Pollitzer, who died on January 29 at the age of 68, was a remarkable artist and a remarkable character. He first made a name for himself in the 1930s as a designer of art-deco glass panels, and was one of the artists who contributed to the decor of the Queen Mary.

After an unhappy period in the army at the beginning of the war, he settled for a while in a country cottage at Hurtmore near Godalming, where he produced a dazzling series of pen and ink drawings — landscapes, portraits and many characteristically vivid studies of sunflowers and tree-trunks.

But, as soon as he could, he went to live in the Mediterranean; first in Cyprus and subsequently in Italy; developing various techniques for capturing on paper his intense vision of his surroundings. For 20 years he was a regular visitor to Rome and Venice, where he painted and drew again and again, in loving detail, the architecture and sculpture that he knew and understood so well.

His work in the 1930s is represented in the Victoria and Albert Museum and at least two of his works were shown in the recent Thirties Exhibition. He exhibited in London at the Hanover and Redfern galleries in the 1950s. His later work was exhibited mainly in Rome and America.

SIR DOUGLAS GLOVER

J. D. R. T. T. writes:

As a former colleague may I add a comment on your obituary of Sir Douglas Glover. Wise, gentle, kind, with a great gift of friendship, he had a splendid sense of humour. He loved to talk and showed great courage when he knew he had cancer.

He talked much about the Army and politics. He had served his country well in both. He had been mentioned in despatches and had loved his years in the TA. At the end of the war he had put on a great parade in Holland for the then Queen Juliana in aid of the Dutch Red Cross and was made a Knight Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

In politics at home he was the last active member of the House of Commons to be chairman of the Conservative Party Conference, rare even before 1961. But outside Great Britain he was chairman of the Anti-Slavery Society and was proud of having been a delegate to the 17th Assembly of the United Nations. He was also proud of being a governor of his old school, Giggleswick, to which he was very generous.

In his latter years he was probably happiest with his second wife, Eleanor, in her garden at Freudenberg, looking after his roses with his beloved labrador at his side. He much enjoyed being host to the Thatchers on holiday both when the Conservatives were in Opposition and in Government; also last year to Prince Philip during the European four-in-hand competition in Kanton Zug.

He remained a staunch believer in Conservative policies.

MR DONALD BOWIE

Mr Donald Bowie, Director of the Church of England Children's Society died on January 31 after a short illness. He was 60. He joined the society in 1964 as Deputy Director and succeeded Canon Reginald Beeny in 1975.

Bowie came to the society with wide experience in both the Colonial Service and in commerce. He joined the Colonial Service in 1947 after serving in the King's African Rifles during the war and retired as an Assistant Secretary in Dar es Salaam. On returning to Britain he worked in the City.

Bowie led and guided the society through a period of marked change of emphasis in its child care practice. Under his directorship the society developed community and neighbourhood projects aimed at preventing children being taken into care, as well as continuing to provide specialist care in residential homes and through adoption and fostering. He was instrumental in setting up a working party on religious commitment chaired by the Bishop of Willesden. The working party was an example of his concern with and interest in the spiritual dimension of the society's work for children and families.

He leaves a widow and three daughters.

HIS HON G. G. LIND-SMITH

His Hon Gerard Gustave Lind-Smith, who died on February 3 at the age of 79, was a Circuit Judge from 1959 to 1975.

Educated at Wellington College and University College, Oxford, Lind-Smith was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1928. He served from 1940 to 1945 as a temporary major with the Royal Army service Corps.

From 1958 to 1959 he was Recorder of Birkenhead and became a County Court Judge in 1959 on the Birmingham Circuit where he remained until 1966. From 1967 to 1975 he was on Circuit 23 (Coventry, Northampton & c). He had been deputy chairman of Cheshire Quarter Sessions in 1957 and was chairman from 1961 to 1968.

He married, in 1928, Alexandra Eva, a daughter of Lieut-Col J. C. Kirk, CBE. they had three daughters.

University news

Birmingham
Professor Edward Marsland has been appointed Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the university for five years

In March last year Professor Marsland was appointed Vice-Chancellor for one year from October 1, 1981, pending the naming of a permanent successor to Lord Hunter. At its meeting on January 20, the university council approved a recommendation that be appointed until 1986.

The council ruled that future appointments to the office of vice-chancellor and principal should be for a fixed term.

Memorial services

Lord Pargiter
The Speaker was represented by Mr Ernest Armstrong, MP, at a memorial service for Lord Pargiter held at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday. Canon Trevor Beeson officiated. Sir James Swaffield, DirectorGeneral and Clerk to the Greater London Council, and Dr the Hon Russell Pargiter (son) read the lessons. Mr Carleton Hetherington gave an address. Others present included:
Lady Pargiter (widow), the Hon Mrs Ernest Cooper-Heyman (daughter), Miss R Cash; the Earl of Listowel, Lord Peart (Leader of the Opposition, House of Lords), Lord Strabolgi, Lord Wakefield of Kendal, Lord Mishcon, Lord and Lady Marshall of Leeds, Lord Stewart of Fulham, CH, Lord Vaizey, Lord Stone, Lord Leatherland (also representing the Opposition Chief Whip, House of Lords), Lord Fletcher, Lord Segal, Lord Beswick, Mr Stanley Orme, MP (chairman, Parliamentary Group AUEW), the Hon Ewen Montagu, QC (Middlesex County Association), Lady Swaffield, Sir Meredith Whittaker, Sir Graham and Lady Rowlandson, Mr Ron Hayward (general secretary, Labour Party), Mrs Joyce Butler, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr George Park, MP, Mr Charles Arnold-Baker, Mr Harry Greenway, MP, Mr J Dean, MP, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Ealing, the Acting Chief Executive of Ealing, Mr John Beeston (Southall Chamber of Commerce) and Mrs Beeston, Mr J R Horrell (Association of County Councils), Mr W H Milnes (secretary, United Nations Association), Mr John Morgan and Mr Paul Boogers (International Union of Local Authorities), Mr Geoffrey Smith (Local Government Chronicle) and Mr Jim Cattermole (European Movement)

Professor T. H. Marshall
A meeting in memory of Professor T. H. Marshall was held at the London School of Economics and Political Science yesterday. Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director, introduced the meeting and Professor R. A. Pinker read from Eliot's *Little Gidding*. Tributes were paid by Dr H. Hillman, Mrs Jean Floud, Professor J. E. Meade and Professor D. G. MacRae. Mrs Michal Hambourg (sister-in-law) played the last movement of Schumann's Fantasia. Among others present were:
Mrs T H Marshall (widow); Lord and Lady Kaldor, Baroness Spear, Lady Cynthia Postan, Sir Roy and Lady Allen, Sir Anthony Burney, Sir Henry and Lady Phelps Brown, Professor and Mrs Raymond Firth, Dr A. Bohm, Dr Audrey Richards, Professor Ruth Glass, Professor L. C. B. Gower, Dr and Mrs John Bowlby, Mr and Mrs Charles Knowles, Professor J. Martin and Professor J. H. Smith (Southampton University), Mr A. M. Rees, Professor J. Barnes (Churchill College, Cambridge) and Professor and Mrs H. L. Elvin

Mr C. Gibbs-Smith
A memorial service for Mr Charles Gibbs-Smith was held yesterday at St Augustine's, Queen's Gate. The Rev Kenneth Hewitt officiated. Dame Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum, read the lesson and Sir Roy Strong, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, gave an address. Among others present were:
Mrs Gibbs-Smith (widow), Miss Mary Harvard (sister), Mr and Mrs Michael Harvard (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs O H Gibbs-Smith, Mr Jonathan Gibbs-Smith, Canon and Mrs Christopher Lawrence, Mr John Taylor, Miss Lilian Gill.
The Hon Donald and Mrs Kershaw, the Hon Philip Samuel, Sir Trenchard Cox, Sir David Follett, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Mr Terence Hodgkinson, Mr John Lowe, Mr John Harthan, Mr George Wingfield Digby, Mr R J Charleston, Mr V K Chew, Mr Brian Lacey, Prof Clive Hart, Mr Claude Blair, Mr Ronald Lightbown, Mr John Physick, Mrs Shirley Bury, Mr John Burton, Mr John Bagley, Mr John Beckwith, Mr John Mallett, Mr Donald King, Miss S Levey, Mr George Nash, Mr Basil Robinson, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Hallowes, Miss Constance Babington Smith, Group Captain John Cunningham, Mr Theodore Crombie, Dr Mary Hellier, Miss Joan Nichol, Dr Michael Linnell, Dr and Mrs Louis Rose, Mr Arnold Nayler and other representatives of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Mr David Musprait (Working Men's College), Major W J Goldsmith (Mosquito Aircraft Museum) and representatives of the College of Psychic Studies, the Flying Saucer Review and other organizations.

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

Our recent list of worst-selling books for the rare book trade was so successful that we are making another innovation today. This is a new service for those who like classical records, but find the stuff on the best-selling classical list rather heavy going. For them, and for all those who have decided that concert music is not nearly as bad at they once thought, we present:

Classical Records: The Monster-Selling List

1. *Placido Domingo Sings Julio Iglesias.* "O Mein Papa", "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and 18 other massive hits, with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. (OTT 459100, £5.99, also cassette.)
2. *James Galway and His Golden Flute: Themes for the Great Silent Movies.* (Mogadon PVC 495100, also on cassette, £5.99.)
3. *Placido Domingo: "It's Easy to Tango!"* Step-by-step instructions by the king of Latin music, together with life-size foot charts, free bow-tie and souvenir booklet of Buenos Aires. (Supertax 419500, £5.99, also in paperback.)
4. *James Galway and his Platinum Flute: Saturday Night in Old Belfast!* The knees-up record to end all knees-up records, with the lads of Murphy's Bar and the Massed Bands of the SAS. (Harp 409510, £5.99, also in bottle and can.)
5. *Sing Along with Placido Domingo!* The darling of the late-night chic opera party crowd in concert with the Royal Covent Garden Opera House audience, taking nineteen encores, cheeky devil. (Valium 001945, £5.99, also in flip-top dispenser.)
6. *James Galway and his Diamond Flute: The James Joyce Centenary Album,* with Joyce's verses read by Pam Ayres. (Harp 954100, £5.99, with many photos of Frank Delaney.)
7. *The John Williams No-Gimmick LP, Just One Guitar and No Messing About.* Honest. Well, with Guest Stars Cleo Laine, John Dankworth and Andre Previn. But otherwise no gimmicks. Backing by The Who. (Glitter 001954, £5.99, also autographed, £50.)
8. *Andre Previn and Friends, Vol 8.* Features actual live recording of Andre Previn being congratulated by his friends on success of Vols 1-7. (Ferguson 901450, £5.99, also on video.)
9. *The All-Electric HMS Pinafore.* New York cast recording of new Gilbert and Sullivan smash hit, featuring Placid Domingo and Sting, and introducing the tap-dancing of Rudolf Nureyev. (Lloyd Webber 900145, £5.99, also in mono.)
10. *James Galway and his Nuclear-Powered Flute: Tunes from the Great Commercial Jingles.* (Hovis 910054, £5.99, also in giant, economy and budget pack.)
11. *Placido Domingo sings Lullabies.* Yes, go to sleep with the Barry Manilow opera! (Barbiturate 590104, £5.99, in vanilla, orange or cinnamon.)
12. *The James Galway-Placido Domingo a gogo Party Album!* Dance the night away with Plac and Jim, also Stephane and Yehudi, John and Cleo, Julian and John, Andre and friends! (Parky 900154, with free sick-bag.)

D-Day Victoria Cross for sale

The only Victoria Cross won on D-Day will be auctioned by Sotheby's next month. It belonged to Company Sergeant Major Stanley Hollis, of the Green Howards, who died in 1972 and it is being offered for sale anonymously.

The auction will be the first public sale of a second World War VC, and the medal could fetch £22,000

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Branson, Colonel Sir Douglas Stephenson, of Sheffield, solicitor £227,860

Norton, Mr Alfred, of Welborne, East Dereham, Norfolk ..£570,782

Potter, Professor, George Richard, of Hathersage, Derbyshire £221,048

Williams, Mr Graham Wyatt, of Kensington, London, solicitor £317,946

Sandhurst entry

The following joined the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in January.

Standard Military Course No 29: S G Akroyd, Eton C. C D Allcock, Shrewsbury S. M A Armstrong, Welbeck C. M Ashley Miller, Charterhouse S. G A Baillie: C A K Barrow, Truro S. S P Baxter, Aldenham S. S J Beaumont, Epsom C. L J A Bell, Stowe S. S J Bennet, Welbeck C. J C R Bertram, Knox Acad, E Lothian: D Bird, Whitby Comp, N Yorks: A R Bolitho, Eton C. A P Bristow, Portsmouth GS: T J Brocklebank-Fowler, Westminster S. R D I Brown, Rannoch S, Perthshire: B R E Butler, St John's S, Surrey: A H Campbell-Black, Welbeck C. L B Campbell-Black, Welbeck C. D A Caulfield, Dyrms, Kent: F J Chedham, Greville HS, Warks: P R Chillion, St Mary's C, Hants: C M Clark, Welbeck C. R Cree: R J Cripwell, Welbeck C. D A Cromar, Newcastle R GS. K T Cronin, Yeovil High S. G N Cruckshank, Perth Acad. C P E Davis, Christ C, Brecon. C W Day, Welbeck C. K A Dunn, Austin Friars S, Cumbria: N M Dwyer, Welbeck C. A E C Edmonstone, Stowe S. D M Eke, Richard Challoner Comp, Merton: T P Evans, Monkton Combe S.

C S Fallorini, Ampleforth C. O F O Findlay, Harrow S. M J P Flannery, St Joseph's C, London: A W Fortescue, Eton C. R W Garlick, Rawlins Comp, Leics: J P W Gatehouse, Dover C. A Gayler, Reans S, Bucks: D A H Gibbons, Welbeck C. T R S Gibson, Merchant Taylors S, Middx: D J Gregory, The Paston S, Norfolk. J A Crugan, Welbeck C. C L E Hamilton, Solihull S, W Mids: M G Hickson, St Edwards S, Oxon: M E Hokody, Berkhamsted S, Herts: J Hurlock, Oswestry S, Shropshire: H R M Ingram, Cheltenham C. J D G Isaac, Christ C, Powys: I S Johnston, St Michael's C of E HS, Lancs: A M Jones, King Edward VI S, Staffs: R C Jones, Canford S, Dorset: R Keeley, Dyrms, Kent: T P Kelly, Downside S, Bath: T L Kingsberry, West Buckland S, Devon: G M Knights Exmouth S. G M R Lewis, Old Swinford Hospitals, W Mids: T D Light, Kingswood S, Bath: G C Lillingston-Price, Sherborne S. I J Lindsay, Eton C. D J Lowick, Trentham HS, Staffs: M H Lugg, Welbeck C.

A F Macdonald, Edinburgh Acad: T C A Mackichan, Marlborough C. F E C Macpherson, Eton C. J D Malu-Thompson, Douai S, Berks: R A Mason, Caterham S, Surrey: A McArthur, Welbeck C. D S McCrandle, Inverness HS: G M D McCullough, The Oratory S: J A McDonnell, Welbeck C. J H McIntosh, Sandown HS, Isle of Wight: G G Medlicott-Goodwin, Stonyhurst C. A N Melvin, The George Ward S, Wilts: N P Metcalfe, Welbeck C. T L Miller, Ryde S, Isle of Wight: D M Mills, Olchfa Comp, Glamorgan: M J Monier-Williams, Marlborough C. P A J Moore, Wellington S, Somerset: J P Morgan, Welbeck C. S G A Muntz, Douglas-Ewart HS, Dumfries: M C Neale, St Mary's S, W Yorks: D Newell, Manchester GS: C H A Odling, Welbeck C. J C Ormerod, Worth S, Sussex: W A M Oswald, Harrow S. J A G Oxley, Eton C. T S Pegler, Welbeck C. C E Perry, Ampleforth C. J C Perry, Aldenham S, Herts: E T Phillips, St Edwards, Oxford. P G Pickering, Forest Hill Jnr HS, Toronto: P U Pople, Rossall S, Lancs: A M Potts, Austin Friars S, Cumbria: K M Potts, Forest S, London: M B Prentice, Bradfield C, Berks. J C Preston, King's S, Worcester.

M F Richardson, Richmond Comp, Yorks: I A Rigden, Exmouth Comp, Devon: F T J A Riley, St Gregory's CS, Yorks: R K T Roddie, Clifton C, Avon: A Russell, Linwood HS, New Zealand: D Russell, Eton C. D R Silverlock, King Edward VI Upper GS, Bury St Edmunds: R J Sanders, Welbeck C. A T Sawford, Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical S, Kent: R F Sawtell, Weydon Comp S, Surrey: R H Schofield, Strathallan S, Perthshire: N Selling, Bedminster Down S, Avon: R C O Shaw, Harrow S. R E Shepherd, Canford S, Dorset: W I C Shipton, Charterhouse S. J S Sincock, Felsted S, Essex: C W Slater, Welbeck C. J R Smee, Salesian C, Hants: G C Smith, Kings GS, Cambs: H U L Smith, Wellington C. N D S Smith, Berkhamsted, Herts: C H Snowball, Seaford C. D W Somerville, Welbeck C. N D Songhurst, Welbeck C. J A Spooner, The Henry Beaufort S, Hants: E R W Stanley, Eton C. M Steed, Bishops Castle S, Shropshire: J G Stewart, Loretto S: P T Stockdale, Wolsingham GS, co Durham: G E Storry, Welbeck C. C R Taylor, Ampleforth C. D P Taylor, Lord Wandsworth C, Hants: W D Telfer-Smollet, Wellington C. R Tindle, Itchen 6th Form C, Hants: D A Tinker, Spring Park Upper S, Kent: A N Trimble: A J Turner, St Davids C, Gwynedd: M J Underwood, Cranleigh S. P D Vail, Ampleforth C. J H Von Haldenwang, Downside S. D J Vose, Welbeck C. C Waterley, Epping Comp (St John's), Essex: J N Walker, Wyggeston Boys GS, Leics: A C White, Kent S, Rheindahlen, Germany: S J Wierzbicki, St Johns C, Hants: D J Willis, De Aston S, Lincs: W J M Wilson, Wellington C. D J Woolf, Uppingham S. M A Young, Welbeck C.

Long Commissioning Course No 88 (WRAC): F J Boxall, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form C, co Durham: W E Davies, Babington House GS, Kent: H L Hoskins, Westfield Comp, Somerset: D E Johnson, Magdalen C Comp, Berks: M H Thornton, Newport HS, Shropshire.

Standard Graduate Course No 1: R F Atkinson, Reading Univ. P S Bennett, Reading Univ. S T Bland, Hull Univ. R A Braithwaite, St Luke's Coll, Exeter Univ. P M Campbell, Univ Coll of N Wales, Bangor. S W Copley, Durham Univ, St Hild & Bede. G P Cowper, Warwick Univ. L D Dalzell-Piper, Goldsmiths Coll. D R K Francis, Lancaster Univ. J R M Gibbs, Oxford Univ, Keble Coll. G P R Hewson, Bristol Univ. P A Hodgkiss, Manchester P. P Hopp, Durham Univ, Cambridge: J A Hollister, Oxford Univ, St Bennet's Hall: S A Jackson, Poly of Central London. C M Jacobs, York Univ. G A James, Essex Univ. P T Kearns, Lancaster Univ. R F Lamerton, Loughborough Univ. M C Lawson, Manchester P. C St J Lyster, UCW: A M Macnaughton, Edinburgh Univ: R P Merrifield, London Univ, Westfield C: G A Murray, Exeter Univ: S A Parsons, Shoreditch C of Ed, Egham: P Pertrie, Loughborough Univ: M T Petterson, Oxford Univ: R M Railings, Leeds Univ: S O Rycroft, Leeds Poly: J C D Smith, Huddersfield Poly: A M Swann, Aberdeen Univ: G M Taylor, Plymouth Poly: V J Thatcher, Salford Univ: I Tutsley, Manchester Univ: C P W Weston, Southampton Univ: T G Williams, UCW

Short Commissioning Course No 43 (WRAC): S J Abbott, Liverpool Univ. K P Austin, Francehill Comp, Surrey. H Booth, Liverpool Poly. M T Crook, City of London Poly. P J Crosse, St Katherine's C, Liverpool. L M Davis, Bristol Poly. P M F Fincham, Ursuline HS, Wimbledon. A S Hatherell, London Univ. R E Hyne, E Sussex C of HE. S M Kirkham, Portsmouth Poly. M M Mackeeg, NE London Poly. S A Mawby, Bentham GS, N Yorks. L M Patrick, St Edmunds C, Merseyside. G M Perks, Birmingham Univ. M A S Phillips, Birmingham Univ. C Ronan, Oxford Poly. J A Simons, Oaklands Convent of the Cross, Hants. J K Spence, London Univ. R E Watson, St Andrews Univ.

Short Service Limited Commission Course No 12: A J E Ashton, Shrewsbury S. P J Benham-Crosswell, Winchester C. S C Bryans, Devonport HS. B D N Cardozo, Stonyhurst C. J E P Clark, Lancing C. A A Collins, Wolverhampton GS. G S Dodge, Berkhamsted S. N A K Flynn, Pangbourne C. P L Hall, Winchester C. G D Harper, Abingdon S. N C Henson, Rugby S. D J Hitchcock, Monmouth S. A G Hughes, Cheltenham C. J R Jenkins, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Dyfed. T S Jones, Oundle S. A W J Lockhart, Rugby S. W S Logan. D B Mason, Cranleigh S. M R Paley, Merchant Taylors S. M H Pearson, Uppingham S. A W Powell-Cullingford, Charterhouse S. J N C Radcliffe, Bolton S. W G Ruddock-West, St Johns S, Surrey. W J B Smellie, Wellington C. J E Taylor, Trent C. J M Tomlinson, Douai S. H G R Waddell, Bendcombe C. A A F White, Wolverhampton GS.

BUSINESS NEWS

More go transatlantic

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL

Year	
1978	3.26m
1979	3.28m
1980	3.46m
1981	3.63m

UK visitors to N America / N America visitors to UK

Although December figures for transatlantic travel, of which Laker has been accounting for more than 20 per cent, have still to be announced, there is expected to have been some increase last year over 1980, rising to about 3.5 million crossings from 1980's flow of rather more than 3.4 million. North American visitors to Britain, whose numbers had declined by 5 per cent in 1980, in the third quarter of last year edged up by 1 per cent over the same quarter of 1980. But the same quarterly comparison of Britons travelling to North America shows only a 6 per cent rise compared with the 27 per cent increase in 1980 over the previous year. Laker increased its carryings over the Atlantic by just over 14 per cent last year to 834,500 one-way passages.

Fewer US jobless

The number of unemployed in the United States, now at 9.2 million, showed a surprise drop last month. The jobless rate fell from 8.8 per cent in December to 8.5 per cent — the first decline since last June. But Labour Department officials said the January figures appear to be an aberration — due to fewer hirings of seasonal workers in December — and do not represent any real improvement. The figures revealed a big increase in unemployment among industrial workers.

600 more jobs lost

Another serious blow to employment hit Kent's Medway towns today when the Rochester engineering firm of Winget announced it is to close, with the loss of 600 jobs. The shutdown follows decisions to close Chatham dockyard, with the loss of nearly 7,000 jobs, and British Petroleum's Isle of Grain oil refinery, with the loss of a further 1,600 jobs.

$1,000m Ford loss

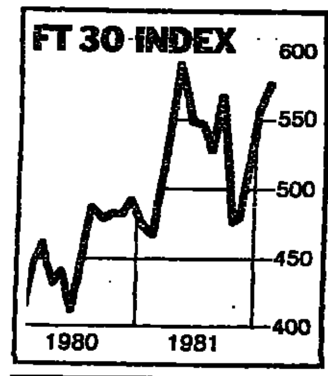
Ford Motor Company of the United States lost more than $1,000m (£537m) last year, it confirmed during negotiations with the car workers union. Results will be officially announced in a few weeks. General Motors this week annnounced a profit of $333m (£179m) for last year, although its operating account showed a loss of $138m (£74m). Chrysler's results are believed to show a $550m (£295m) loss.

Steel warning

United States' steelmakers were yesterday accused of violating a 1977 world steel pact and international trade law by filing anti-dumping actions against European industry. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) consultative committee, which groups together steel interests, warned of the grave consequences of charges that European steel exports had caused damage to the American industry.

MARKET SUMMARY

Laker boosts holiday firms



LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.8 up 3.3
FT Gilts 65.15 up 0.20
FT all share 329.93 up 1.21
Bargains 23,166

An air of optimism continued to hang over the market yesterday, despite the fact that Laker Airways had gone bust with debts of £200m.

The Government's apparent success at controlling public sector spending and the prospect of a 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates over the next few months came as good news.

Equities made further headway with the FT Index ending the second leg of the long three-weeker 3.3 up at 578.1. A rise on the account so far of 10.9.

Gilts were also in a cheerful mood, scoring further rises of £¼ to £⅜ with the Government broker deciding against the announcement of a new tap ahead of the United States money supply figures over the weekend.

However, with all this good news dealers were openly talking of a possible ½ per cent cut in bank base rates being announced next week — or at least in time for the budget on March 9.

Barclays Bank's new £100m 16 per cent loan issue opened up with a premium of £1½ over the offer price of £25.

Barclays recovered from an initial fall to end the day 1p lighter at 430p as was Lloyds at 460p and National Westminster at 430p.

The crash of Sir Freddie Laker's empire focused a morbid curiosity on several of the public holiday groups which might now benefit from the drop in competition. Among those to show appreciation were Davies & Newman 17p to 87p, Horizon 7p to 330p, Intasun 6p to 110p and Saga 7p to 162p. Even British & Commonwealth Shipping with a stake in British Caledonian managed a 12p rise at 388p.

Smith St Aubyn rose 9p to 50p after receiving the go-ahead for its proposed rights issue, which was announced following losses of £20m or more from dealings in the gilt-edged market.

Tozer Kemsley ended the day 5p firmer at 73p despite 1m shares going through the market, while another line of 1m shares left Prudential 1p higher at 235p.

The tin group Pengkalen jumped 82p to 350p on bid speculation. Straits Trading with more than 26 per cent of the shares has sold its entire holding to Aman nominees.

Renong Tin holds 10.88 per cent and Gopeng Cons 13.53 per cent.

Among blue chips, BAT Industries came in for further adjustment of its share rating after the recent profits explosion at its Brazilian subsidiary. The shares closed 21p dearer at 431p. Rumours of a bullish brokers circular lifted ICI 4p to 342p.

The fortunes of Edbro, the hydraulic lifting gear group, appeared to have turned the corner following the appointment of Mr Geoffrey Buckley to the board. Last week the group had lunch with brokers Laing & Cruikshank, who remain bullish of the group's growth prospects. Analysts expect a turnround in figures for the year to March from a loss of £3.9m to a profit of £2.5m with £4m projected for 1983. The price rose 3p to 91p against the 42p of a year ago.

Amstrad also reporting soon jumped a further 20p to 240p unperturbed on reports about a falling off of sales in CB radio kits.

Equity turnover on February 4, was £153.667m (16,619 bargains).

Michael Clark

COMMODITIES

● Dealing in tin was inhibited by a bomb scare at the London Metal Exchange yesterday. The second ring and kerb trade were prevented, as morning trade was suspended while Plantation House, which houses the Exchange, was searched. Before this, tin for nearby delivery reached a record high of £8,990 as covering and pricing operations continued in a market where the bulk of readily available metal is still in the hands of the operator who has dominated dealings for over seven months now. Dealers believed prices could have reached an even higher level if trading had not been stopped.

MONEY MARKETS

● The Bank bought £401m. of bills on a forecast shortage of £400m. Its dealing rates were unchanged. Treasury bill rate at the weekly tender was fractionally higher at 13.57%

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14⅝-14$\frac{7}{16}$

Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 15⅝-15⅞
3-month DM 10¼-10⅛
3-month Fr.F. 15$\frac{13}{16}$-15$\frac{9}{16}$

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,365.70 down 2.68
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,801.88 down 32.82

CURRENCIES

● Sterling slipped on the cut in BNOC's oil price. The dollar firmed in response to the lower unemployment rate in the United States.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
$1.8590 down 110 points
Index 91.6 down 0.1
DM 4.3660
Fr.F 11.0850
Yen 434.00
Dollar
Index 11.3 down 0.1
DM 2.3460 up 110 pts
Gold
$384.25 down 25 cents

North Sea oil price cut by 1.50 a barrel

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The price of all of North Sea oil is to be cut by at least $1.50 a barrel early next week, reflecting the current world oil glut and the weakness of oil product demand that has sent petrol prices tumbling all over the country. The move could cost the Treasury £300m a year in lower tax revenue.

The British National Oil Corporation, which trades nearly two-thirds of all North Sea oil production, would not comment last night on its negotiations with the oil companies. But reliable oil industry sources confirmed The BNOC has offered to cut the price of its Forties crude — the official marker for North Sea oil — from $36.50 to $35.00 a barrel. Other North Sea crudes will also be reduced in price by the same amount and oil companies believe BNOC may yet have to concede an even larger reduction.

the move comes after intense pressure from the big oil companies, British Petroleum, Shell and Esso, who have been making heavy losses at their downstream refining operations. A reduction of $1.50 a barrel would normally be expected to lead to a reduction in petrol prices of beween 2p and 3p. But with petrol prices having fallen by about 10p since Christmas on average across the country, and more in some areas, the oil companies are unlikely to pass on the reduction to the motorist.

OIL PRICE
$ per barrel
42
40
38
36
34
32
OFFICIAL PRICE
SPOT PRICE
Jul 80 Jan 81 Jul 81 Feb 82

BNOC's decision to cut prices marks a major change of policy by the state oil corporation. Since last year, North Sea oil prices have been officially linked to those of Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The Saudi marker crude is still officially priced at $34 a barrel, and North Sea oil has traditionally commanded a premium of $2.50-$3.00 a barrel over its Saudi equivalent. BNOC's move reduces the difference to $1 a barrel, and means that it has — for the first time — attempted to lead official prices down.

The move clearly reflects the downward pressure on oil prices across the world. Cargoes of North Sea oil have been trading on the Rotterdam "spot" market at more than $3 a barrel below their official price during the last few days. The current world oil surplus is estimated at between two and three million barrels a day.

The North Sea oil price reduction will hit Government's oil revenues. A $1.50 cut is likely to reduce the tax flow to the Treasury by about £300 million in a full year. If BNOC is forced to concede a larger cut, then the impact will be proportionately larger.

North Sea oil prices reached a peak in the first half of last year, when the price of the Forties marker crude was increased to $39.25 a barrel. In June last year it was cut to $35 a barrel, and went up again to $36.50 after the last Opec meeting when Saudi Arabia increased its official price from $32 a barrel to $34 a barrel. Saudi Arabia is under increasing pressure from other Opec members to cut its oil output to defend current price levels.

Even if the leading North Sea operators accept the $1.50 offer from BNOC (and they are expected to press for more), they will resume their pressure for a further cut when second-quarter contracts come up for negotiation in the second half of mext month. They have been badly hit by having to use expensive North Sea crude oil in their refineries at a time when oil product demand and oil product prices are so weak. Oil consumption in the United Kingdom was down by 7.7 per cent last year, according to Department of Energy figures issued three days ago.

Cut in home loan rates forecast

By Lorna Bourke

A cut of 1 per cent in the home loan rate within two or three months was predicted yesterday by Mr Alan Cumming, Building Societies Association chairman.

"And I would expect a further 1 per cent cut in the summer", he said.

Mr Cumming admitted that there was room even now to reduce rates but that the societies were anxious to avoid a repetition of 1981 when the mortgage rate dropped to 13 per cent but then rapidly returned to its previous record level of 15 per cent, where it now stands.

The societies meet next week to discuss interest rates but they may well delay making a decision until after the Budget on March 9. By then the Chancellor will have revealed how much he intends to raise through National Savings — the societies' biggest competitor for funds.

"If the Chancellor is not too aggressive, we should have plenty of money to lend and we see no difficulty in lending it"

The societies are not concerned provided the Chancellor does not seek to raise the National Savings intake above last year's target figure of £3,500m.

Mr Cumming was also hopeful that the Chancellor might be prepared to raise the starting threshold for stamp duty from its present level of £20,000.

On the house price front, Mr Cumming is expecting the market to be sluggish. "We do not expect to see anything more than a modest increase, and it is likely that any rise will continue to be below the rate of inflation. He pointed out that for the first time in recent years, homebuyers were paying a real rate of interest above the rate of inflation, but acquiring a property which was not keeping pace with the rate of inflation.

Geoffrey Bray: man of million-mile service skills

Wiltshire rejuvenation for desert monsters

Tired giants of the desert are being revitalized in a small Wiltshire town where Bray Equipment Sales is responsible for the million-mile service of the biggest trucks ever seen on British soil. The desert-fatigued monsters, American-made Kenworth trucks, 40 feet long and 12 feet wide, are brought to Chippenham where brothers Geoffrey and Derek Bray have set up a workshop for the vehicles which have one of the most punishing careers in the moving business — shifting oil rigs 24 hours a day.

Commenting on the work, Mr Geoffrey Bray said: "This is where the great British tradition of engineering skills is actually recognized. It is a lot cheaper to bring the trucks here than to transport people and spare parts to areas which are often politically unstable."

It takes 1,200 to 1,500 workshop hours for this mammoth service, which can cost between £50,000 and £90,000. "The trucks cost £130,000 each, so it is still the most economical way of doing a thorough job.

Three months ago. . . the first UK-built Vauxhall Astra comes off the line, and now the model is No. 6 in the ratings

Vauxhall stars in top ten car chart

By Rupert Morris

General Motors sold more cars in the United Kingdom last month than at any time since June 1978, in spite of it being a poor month for the industry.

By pushing market share up to 13 per cent with its best-ever January figures, the company gave an encouraging start to Mr John Fleming, who on Tuesday became chairman and chief executive of Vauxhall Motors, GM's British subsidiary.

Vauxhall and Opel together sold 14,393 new cars in the United Kingdom, making it the third month in succession in which they achieved 11 per cent or more of the market, according to figures supplied by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. The Vauxhall Cavalier became Britain's third best-selling car, after the Ford Escort and Ford Cortina, and Vauxhall was able, like Ford, to claim three models in the top ten, with the Astra sixth and the Chevette tenth.

There was disappointment for BL, whose chairman, Sir Michael Edwardes, announced last week that the long-troubled state car group was firmly on the road to recovery.

BL's best-selling car, the Austin Metro, slipped from second to fifth place, with only 5,914 registrations compared with the Cavalier's 6,647.

The Triumph Acclaim, jointly developed with Honda, retained seventh place with 2,852 registrations.

Ford kept its dominant position with three of the top four models, the Escort just edging out the Cortina, which was December's best-seller, with 12,912 new sales registered against 12,680. The Fiesta held on to fourth spot with 6,550 registrations.

It was a disappointing month, with 114,296 new car sales, 16 per cent down on the figure for January 1981 of 136,108 new registrations.

Industry sources expected some downturn in January, and blamed bad weather and the train-drivers' strikes. Interference with mail is expected to have delayed new car registrations, making the January figures unreliable.

But the rise in the share of imported cars—to 59.8 per cent, compared with 52.9 per cent in January 1981—caused more concern.

Japanese imports fell from 12.3 per cent in January 1981 to 9.23 per cent, but EEC manufacturing showed a marked improvement, raising their share of the market from 33.5 per cent to 44.2 per cent.

The number of new sales was the lowest January figures for five years. The rise in import levels over 1981 represented a return to 1980 levels.

Volvo was particularly encouraged, as its market shares rose spectacularly from 2.9 per cent to a record 3.98 per cent with sales 14 per cent higher than in 1981.

BL yesterday announced price increases of between a £100 and £200 for the Austin Metro Mini, and Triumph Acclaim.

TOP TEN CARS

United Kingdom top car sales in January (last month's place in brackets)

1.	(3)	Ford Escort	12,912
2.	(1)	Ford Cortina	12,680
3.	(5)	Vauxhall Cavalier	6,647
4.	(4)	Ford Fiesta	6,550
5.	(2)	Austin Metro	5,914
6.	(-)	Vauxhall Astra	3,894
7.	(7)	Triumph Acclaim	2,852
8.	(-)	VW Golf	2,811
9.	(9)	Volvo 300	2,552
10.	(8)	Vauxhall Chev.	2,513

Ronson may lift ACC conditions

By Philip Robinson

Mr Gerald Ronson is likely to begin new moves on Monday in his attempt to prevent Mr Robert Holmes a Court from taking control of Associated Communications Corporation.

It is believed he will make his £46.6m takeover offer free of conditions.

Mr Ronson's bankers, Barclays Merchant Bank, are due to meet ACC's advisers, Standard Chartered, on Monday, when discussions are expected to centre on whether an unconditional offer would be enough to win an ACC board recommendation.

Mr Holmes à Court and Lord Grade, the former ACC chairman, return from Australia next week. Legal action by Heron, Mr Ronson's group, designed to prevent ACC voting shares passing from its directors to Mr Holmes à Court starts on Monday week. On that day, the High Court action by the Post Office opposing a £560,000 payment to Mr Jack Gill, dismissed ACC managing director, is also due to start.

Malaysian snub for Dunlop

From M G G Pillai, Kuala Lumpur, Feb 5

Dunlop's Malaysian Industries offshoot has lost a £5m contract which it had held since 1962.

The 51 per cent subsidiary of Dunlop UK said here that it had lost the contract to supply tyres to Malaysian government departments this year. But it declined to give any further details.

The news comes as Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is to begin talks with Malaysian officials.

Dunlop is the second leading British company to lose a contract with the Malaysian Government since Malaysia decided on a policy of discriminating against British goods and services.

Reuter, the news agency, was given six months' notice in December to stop supplying news and other services under the contract it had with the Information Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and Radio Television Malaysia, official sources said today.

The recent purchase of 26 Scorpion light tanks and 25 armoured personnel carriers built by Alvis of Coventry was negotiated at least six months before the new purchase policy came into effect and therefore did not come under the new rules, the sources said.

But British Leyland may not be so lucky. Its contract to supply military lorries and other vehicles comes up for renewal shortly and it may not get it, according to the same sources, although it has held it for every year but one since 1957.

British satellite approval soon

By Clive Cookson and Bill Johnstone

The Government is to approve a privately funded British satellite for television broadcasting. Britsat will be built by British Aerospace, with electronic equipment supplied by GEC-Marconi.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to make the announcement in the Commons later this month. Mr Michael Marshall, Conservative MP for Arundel and former space minister, has provided the opportunity with a parliamentary question tabled for answer on February 18.

British Telecom has agreed to join British Aerospace and GEC-Marconi in the Britsat consortium. N.M.Rothschild, the bankers, are also involved.

The last of the project will be between £150m and £200m, depending on the type of system chosen. The cheaper and more likely option is based on the European Communications Satellite which British Aerospace is already making for the European telecommunications authorities.

But British Aerospace would prefer a more ambitious project based on the large satellite, L-Sat, which the company is developing for a scheduled launch by the European Space Agency in 1986.

The first option would have two television channels. L-Sat would provide ample capacity for a third or fourth channel.

British Telecom is prepared to put up £50m for the right to use as much as one-third of the satellite's capacity for transmitting computer data to businesses and to provide a link with Satellite Business Systems in the United States.

If the broadcasting authorities had a choice over the timeing, they would not commit themselves to satellit television at present because the BBC is financially pressed and the independent companies are preoccupied with the launch of Channel 4 and breakfast television.

But they have come under heavy pressure from the Home Office, Industry Department and aerospace and electronics companies to go ahead now, because the Government and industry are keen not to get left behind the European competition.

France, West Germany and Luxembourg are going ahead with their own television satellites, whose broadcasting "footprints" will cover Britain.

Britsat will be located in geostationary orbit 36,000 kilometers above the Equator, at a longditude of 31°W. To pick up its broadcasts householders will need a one-meter dish-shaped antenna on the roof or side of their home costing about £100.

But many peple will receive the satellite broadcasts by cable from a larger communal aerial. The future of cable television in Britain is closely connected with satellite broadcasting, and the Government is expected to publish a Cabinet Office report favouring liberalization of cable Television at the same time as Mr Whitelaw's statement. Together they will have a profound effect on the future of broadcasting in Britain.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds.	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 7-day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11¼%, £10,000 up to £50,000 12¼% £50,000 and over 12¾%.

Brittan attacks government critics

The dole 'is cheaper than job creation'

By Melvyn Westlake

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday sought to rebut government critics who claim that it would cost less to create jobs for the unemployed than keep them on the dole. He described such claims as a cruel deception on the unemployed.

As the level of jobless has surged to three million the cost to the Government in additional benefits and lost tax revenue has risen sharply. Such costs are now estimated to exceed the Budget deficit.

According to some calculations, the Exchequer loses between £80 and £90 a week for each unemployed person. This is made up of additional benefits, and lost taxes and national insurance contributions. It has been widely suggested that this money could, therefore, be used instead to put people back to work.

Mr Brittan said that this was a seductive but fundamentally ill-founded argument. It was absurd to take the total "cost" of the unemployed and assume that that amount of money could be spent, without there being the most severe consequences for the economy in terms of inflation. The nature of the figures had been misunderstood.

Mr Brittan yesterday: attacking the critics

If the Government employed a man in a public sector job at £90 a week, it would typically save £30 a week in benefits and would create £30 in taxes and national insurance contributions. But the Government would still be £30 worse of than before. Just because the "cost" of an unemployed man was £90 a week, it did not mean that the Government could lay its hands on that som and pay it out in wages at nil net cost, in other words for nothing.

Even this calulation assumed that there were no other additional costs to be met when creating new jobs — such as materials, overheads and administration, Mr Brittan said. However, he did not appear to have included the revenue that the Treasury would receive from VAT and othe taxes on speding, although these were part of the original case that a man on the dole cost £90.

Moreover, the Government's critics might point out that Mr Brittan had completely excluded the multiplier effect of creatin additional employment.

The Government would collect additional revenue not only from those people for whom it had directly created jobs, but from other parts of the economy as well.

Mr Brittan said the only way that the state could employ or get jobs for the unemployed was by spending substantially more than is lost at present. But this would have to be financed by extra taxes of additional government borrowing.

Another Treasury Minister said yesterday that Britain's chances of achieving a lasting economic recovery have never looked better. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Financial Secretary denied that the latest CBI industrial trends survey contradicted the Government's claims that recovery was now proceeding steadily.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
123	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	121	—	10.0	8.3	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2
130	97	Frank Horsell	129	+1	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9
78	39	Frederick Parker	78	—	1.7	2.2	33.9	—
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	95	Jackson Group	95	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	+2	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9
59	51	Scruttons "A"	56	+1	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
222	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8
15	10	Twinlock Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinlock 15% ULS	76	—	15.0	19.7	—	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
263	212	W. S. Yeates	219	+1	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Taking tax relief on 'venture' trusts

One of Sir Geoffrey Howe's more imaginative schemes as Chancellor looks set to bear its first fruits with the investment this week by Electra Risk Capital (ERIC) in electronic systems.

This scheme, under the parentage of Electra Investment Trust, is one of only three set up in recent months to take advantage of generous tax concessions available to individuals who invest in new businesses. The others are the Basildon Fund from stockbrokers Laurence Prust, and the Creative Capital Fund marketed by the British Linen Bank — part of the Bank of Scotland.

The schemes have enormous appeal for higher-rate taxpayers who can obtain tax relief at their highest rate paid on investments of up to £10,000 in each year.

Criticism has centred on the fact that the Electra scheme and, to a lesser extent, the Basildon Fund have a built-in incentive not to invest, since they enjoy the benefits of interest on the cash while it remains on deposit. The investor obtains no tax relief until the funds are invested.

However since the relaunch of ERIC last September after the Mark 1 version last April was a flop, the scheme has pulled in £8.7m.

This week's announcement of a £250,000 stake in the electronic office services of Urwick-Nexos leaves ERIC with nearly £8.5m to invest. Gordon Dean the managing director will clearly have to go some to find a suitable home for even 10 per cent of the money in what remains of this financial year. In the meantime, ERIC is in the happy position of earning a high rate of interest which is *not* passed on to its 1,800 investors.

Admittedly, the scheme does not impose a front-end charge but investors should not be content with the situation wherby interest earned is earmarked entirely to defray the cost of launching the scheme and investigating potential investments.

Mr Dean says he is currently looking at 24 possible investments. These are mainly in the word processing and video fields but there is also the idea of investing in a chain of old people's homes. Mr Dean says he has "a useful nucleus which will come to fruition in a short time". Meanwhile, there is a strong argument that £8.5m of investors' money should be treated rather more generously.

ERIC offers investors master shares at £2,500 each: minimum purchase is one master share. For an individual paying income tax at 60 per cent, plus 15 per cent investment income surcharge, tax relief will be a full 75 per cent, or £1,875, reducing the net cost of a master share to £625.The true cost of a master share to a 50 per cent taxpayer would be £1,250.

Laurence Prust's Basildon Fund, launched last Autumn, drew in a comparatively modest £1.1m, mainly from its own clients. It has a 7 per cent "front-end load" and while money is on deposit, Laurence Prust retains 3 per cent of any interest. "There is enormous pressure on us to invest and we have already cleared investments of up to £450,000" they say.

The firm is poised to put money into what is described as a "pleasantly diversified" set of investments ranging from energy saving through leisure to medicine. Laurence Prust will shortly be seeking another £1m tranche, though next time it will be looking beyond its own clients.

Charges are also likely to be structured more in line with the ERIC formula, on the grounds that higher rate taxpayers do not want income but capital gain.

The British Linen Bank's Creative Capital Fund is the only one currently available to investors. It is open until the end of February but may close earlier if it reaches its target of £1m. It offers a master share of £2,500 but unlike ERIC, it pays a commercial rate of interest to investors while their money is on deposit.

The ground rules of these schemes, though simple in essence, are made irritatingly complex by a string of preconditions. Basically, the deal is as follows: for each of the three tax years 1981-82 to 1983-84, the business start-up scheme will give relief to investors at their top income tax rate (including investment income surcharge), on up to £10,000 a year of money invested in ordinary shares of certain types of new companies. At top tax rates this means that the £10,000 investment may cost the individual only £2,500 after tax relief.

These companies include those involved in manufacturing, construction and distribution but exclude for example, commodities, share dealing, land transactions and financial activities

To qualify for tax relief, the minimum investment in any one company is £500. The investor may own up to 30 per cent of the company in which he invests but he may not control it and he cannot be a paid director or employee.

There is nothing to prevent direct investment but the problem is that few individuals have the time and expertise to seek but and evaluate such companies themselves.

According to Mark Powell, of stockbrokers Laing & Cruickshank, the tax relief should be only a secondary incentive. He says: "It's a high risk investment, so you have to believe in the investment itself".

Last word goes to Eddie Ray, senior tax partner of chartered accountants Spicer and Pegler. There are lots of takers but very little opportunity to invest".

Peter Gartland

Gordon Dean, managing director of Electra Risk Capital.

Rise in gilts gives fund managers new confidence

The half per cent cut in interest rates last month precipitated a rise in gilts and as the table shows, some offshore gilt funds have seen the return of nearly four per cent over the month.

However, this has been achieved from a very low base, as over the previous 12 months of 1981, investors saw a dramatic decline in the value of their investments with only two trusts — Allen Harvey & Ross's Gilt Fund and Tyndall's Gilt Fund — showing a positive return. Anyone unfortunate enough to have held the Invicta Gilt Income Fund (formerly Clive Gilt Fund CI) will have seen an overall loss during 1981 of 8.62 per cent. But if you strip out the 15 per cent that went to the unitholder as income, the capital loss works out at 24 per cent.

The price of gilts is dominated entirely by interest rate considerations. When interest rates rise — as they did in the last few months of 1981, gilt prices slide. Last month saw a half per cent cut in interest rates and gilt prices have risen correspondingly giving more than 50 per cent of the trusts a positive return over the first four weeks of this year.

And this has put new heart in fund managers. "I think 1982 will not be a bad year overall," says Alan Johnsen, "simply because we start from such a low base."

OFFSHORE GILT FUNDS PERFORMANCE — TOTAL RETURN

	FUND	Total Return One Month %	Total Return 1981 %
1	Allen Harvey & Ross Gilt Fund	+3.58	+2.10
2	GT Anchor Gilt Edge	+3.00	–2.58
3	Midland Drayton Gilt Fund	+2.73	–2.00
4	Lloyds Trust Gilt	+2.13	–1.13
5	King & Shaxson Gilt Fund	+1.84	–4.72
6	Kleinwort Benson Gilt Fund	+1.79	–0.94
7	Brown Shipley Sterling Fund	+1.74	–2.63
8	Nat West High Income	+1.63	–0.42
9	Arbuthnot Gov. Securities	+1.50	–4.41
10	Fidelity Gilt Fund	+1.46	–2.86
11	Craigmount Gilt Trust	+1.42	–0.96
12	Tyndall Gilt Fund	+1.32	+1.00
13	TSB Gilt Fund	+0.29	–0.26
14	Gartmore Gilt Fund	0.00	–8.15
15	Britannia Gilt Trust	–0.07	–0.24
16	Barclays Unigilt	–0.16	–5.24
17	Invicta Gilt Income	–0.86	–8.62
18	Invicta Gilt Growth	–0.89	–7.95
19	Hill Samuel Gilt	–1.12	–2.84
20	S & P Sterling Fund	–1.53	–1.29
21	Henderson Baring Gilt	–1.95	–2.61
22	Hambros Gilt Fund	–2.07	—
23	Quest Sterling Fixed Interest	–2.34	–6.65
24	Schroder Gilt Fund	–2.45	—

Dividend on offshore gilt funds are paid gross, without tax deduction

This view is echoed by Michael Lawrence of Allen Harvey and Ross who has managed to turn in the top performance over both 1981, and for the first month of this year. "I am the eternal optimist," he says. Interest rates in Britain have eased a little but he points out that they are dependent on interest *rate movements in America*. "I would stick my neck out though and say that 1982 is going to be better than 1981," he says.

Stuart Goldsmith, investment director of Britannia is more cautious. "Interest rates are not going to come down terribly quickly — later in the year we are more optimistic," he says.

Lorna Bourke

MONEY TALK

Attractive rates for stop-loss insurance

Members of Lloyd's who want to insure any *potential* losses can take advantage of attractive rates on "stop-loss" insurance negotiated by the Association of External Members of Lloyd's — though you have to be a member of the association to be eligible.

On payment of the premium a member is covered for losses of up to £200,000 with an excess of between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on the premium income limit. A special feature of this particular stop-loss cover *is* that you do *not* have to repay your profits in future years to the underwriters who have paid your losses. The annual premium can be set against income tax, including the investment income surcharge.

Further details from The Association of External Members of Lloyd's, c/o Dr John Maxwell, Maxwell International, FREEPOST, London WC2E 7BR.

Loan scheme

Home loans schemes linked to a self-employed pension plan instead of the more conventional with-profits endowment policy, are sprouting like mushrooms. And very attractive they are too for higher rate taxpayers, who are self-employed or in non-pensionable employment.

Latest to launch a scheme is Povident Life which has links with a number of building societies and can arrange a loan of up to 90 per cent of the property valuation.

The attraction of pension-linked schemes is that pension premiums are elegible for tax relief at highest rate paid by the individual. Life policy premiums only attract tax relief at 15 per cent.

Share account

The Hearts of Oak & Enfield Building Society has launched a new Summit Share Account, guaranteeing 2¼ per cent above the BSA recommended rate for six years. At present this is 12 per cent net pa or 12.36 per cent if interest is calculated twice yearly — the choice is yours. The minimum investment is £1,000, maximum £20,000, and withdrawals can be made at any time with 90 days loss of interest.

Extra income for the elderly

The index-linked Home Annuity Scheme launched by the Building Trust last week, which provides extra income for elderly people with an unmortgaged property, is even better than we first thought.

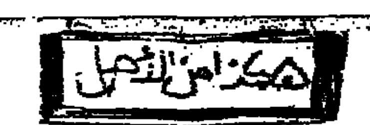
Homeowners who want to increase their spendable income raise a loan from the Building Trust against the security of the home and use the lump sum to buy an annuity — an income for life. Part of the annuity payment is used to pay the interest on the loan, and the balance is extra spendable income.

Borrowers from the Building Trust can opt to have half their loan index linked to any increase in house prices, and pay interest at two-thirds the building societies' recommended rate. Alternatively they can have the entire loan index-linked and pay interest at only one-third the building societies' recommended rate. This dramatically increases the amount of spendable income.

Mr Robin Ellison, Managing Director of the Building Trust, reports overwhelming response from borrowers wanting to rise an index-linked loan but a less dramatic reaction from the pension funds which are being offered partially index-linked investment opportunities.

This could be one area where the pension funds might exercise a degree of social responsibility if it enabled elderly people to live more comfortably in retirement. The people who would benefit might well be their own pensioners.

Lorna Bourke



Funds finding it pays to be backing Britain

Funds concentrating on British investments have made the best start in the 1982 unit trust league table. Indeed, such was the strength of the British stock market in January compared with its major overseas counterparts that less than a dozen of the first 300 funds in last month's performance list are predominantly invested abroad.

The overall leaders include a wide variety of recovery, smaller company and high income trusts. At this stage of the economic cycle, with the worst of the recession apparently behind us, income funds have a lot in common with recovery portfolios.

Yield requirements frequently necessitate managers buying cyclical stocks currently down on their fortunes or out of favour with the market. Over the past couple of years there have been plenty of British manufacturing companies falling into these categories.

Now with industrial recovery in sight or just over the horizon, the M & G management group recently described the domestic manufacturing sector "as the brightest feature in the world investment scene". Certainly, the unit trust group well anticipated the stock market with the FT Actuaries Industrial Group Index ending January at its all-time peak.

With its sizeable exposure to the manufacturing sector, M & G suggests that British yield-orientated trusts have most to gain from our industrial recovery: "These funds have suffered from the general background of falling dividends in the share sectors of interest to them. This has been reflected also in falling capital values. The dividend trend should now begin to move favourably, and share prices may be expected to follow."

Another group of funds which has begun the year well are those specializing in investment trusts. The £195m Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units takes 17th position over the month with similar funds from the Target and Abbey stables close behind.

The FT Actuaries Investment Trust Index rose by nearly 8 per cent in January, while the average discount based on the 100 largest investment companies narrowed to 23 per cent, its lowest level for nearly 18 months. A major influence behind these movements has been renewed speculation within the sector of imminent takeovers and possible unitizations.

Outside Britain the best performance by an overseas invested fund last month was achieved by the recently launched Hill Samuel European Trust in 248th position. Its closest challenge was also provided by two of last year's new issues, Equity & Law Far East and stockbrokers Carr Sebag's Far Eastern fund.

Michael Hockings

Value of £100 invested over one month to Feb 1

1.	Craigmount Recovery	£116.0
2.	Gartmore UK Smaller Cos. Recovery	£114.70
3.	Target Income	£113.90
4.	Intel Smaller Companies	£113.30
5.	Britannia Income & Growth	£112.90
6.	Britannia Nat. High Income	£112.20
7.	S & P Income	£111.70
8.	Fidelity Special Sits.	£111.60
9.	Quilter/Quadrant Income	£111.60
10.	Intel Income & Growth	£111.00

Source: Planned Savings Magazine

*net income reinvested — offer to offer price basis

Fighting for a fair share of the pension

The Government is acting speedily to change the laws governing maintenance after divorce. But one increasingly thorny problem — pensions — highlighted by the Law Commission in its report on the financial consequences of divorce, is unlikely to be tackled in the forthcoming Bill. This is a shame, for while the arguments for and against maintenance still rage, many ex-wives and ex-husbands agree over pensions.

Under existing pensions legislation, an ex-wife cannot claim any share in a widow's pension, though one may have a claim to any dependants benefits or lump-sum death benefits if the trustees discretion allows. With the growth of occupational pension schemes and the amazing sums of money involved in the public sector, a man's pension may be the family's biggest asset. Up-market divorces these days often involve an unseemly tussle over how, and how much, the ex-wife should be compensated for her loss.

Although the pension funds cannot, by law, recognise her claim to part of a widow's pension, the matrimonial courts do. So compensation has to be paid out of the husband's share of current assets. This seems as unfair as an ex-wife being shut out completely, particularly since the ex-wife might in any case predecease her husband.

Mr David Lindsay, senior solicitor to The Airways Pension Scheme, called for fresh legislation in a recent letter to *The Times*.

He says: "My pension fund, whose members include high-earning pilots on index-linked pensions, has come up against this problem. It is impossible to compensate an ex-wife for the loss of a widow's pension without leaving the husband with nothing. By law we are not allowed to split the pension. Even if we were allowed to, I would much rather accept the direction of the court".

The divorce courts have no powers over pension rights and payments in divorce settlements — they can only carve up the existing assets in lieu of them. So in many cases, a husband may be asked to transfer his half of the matrimonial home to an ex-wife, to compensate her for some potential future loss. If the widow's pension could be divided by the courts or the pension funds as it is on the Continent, where wives past and present are paid on a pro-rata basis, the problem would be solved.

The Law Commission would clearly like this dealt with in the new divorce legislation. So would the Occupational Pensions Board, which called for a change as long ago as 1976.

At the moment there are two courses of action — neither really satisfactory — open to a husband who wants, or is required, to compensate an ex-wife for the loss of her widow's pension. Some pension schemes may allow him to forgo part of his pension on retirement in return for continuing payments to an ex-wife — or any other dependent — after his death.

Or he can take out insurance, if he can afford it. Commercial Union says that a reversionary annuity of £5,000 a year to an ex-wife, aged 46, on the death of a husband, aged 50, would require a single premium of £17,475 or annual premiums of £4,415.

The snag, apart from the cost, is that if the ex-wife predeceases her ex-husband, the money is lost.

Margaret Drummond

Family Assurance report is expected soon

Investors in the Family Assurance Society can soon expect to receive the society,s annual report and accounts for 1981. Following the upheavals last year, when the Registrar of Friendly Societies gave notification that he intended preventing the society from taking on new business unless changes were made, some investors may have been uneasy about their policies.

The 1981 accounts are due on February 17 and should be published soon afterwards. "We have our fingers crossed that most of the problems that arose in previous years have been overcome," said John Clark, of Family Assurance.

He is hoping that the auditors, Deloitte Haskins Sells, will give the society a clean bill of health. The accounts had been strongly qualified in previous years by Morison Stoneham, the auditors at that time, on the grounds that the society had failed to keep proper records.

Family Assurance has had management consultants looking at their systems for more than six months and hopes that the book-keeping shortcomings have been rectified. Trouble developed some time ago with the introduction of a computer system which appears to have been badly programmed.

This resulted in policyholders being credited with units in the investment fund even although they may not have paid their annual premium. This has been rectified and policyholders have been asked to pay arrears or have their policies made "paid up".

This over-allocation of units meant that the fund was being valued on a conservative basis, so it is possible that investors will see some improvement.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies has been keeping a close eye on developments and is likely to keep the assurance society on a short rein for a while. So it looks as though most of investors' qualms have proved unfounded. We will know for certain when the accounts are published.

Meanwhile Ralph James, a member of Family Assurance, who was due to be co-opted on to the society's commitee of management, has not been asked to take his place, and is taking the matter to arbitration.

Members of the society who attended the stormy annual general meeting last May voted in favour of Mr James being co-opted on to the Committee, but Mr James says that after six months he was advised by Bob Morrison, chairman of the society, that the committee has decided not to accept the recommendation of the AGM.

Family Assurance is a tax-free friendly society with some 50,000 investors and assets in excess of £8 million. Its affairs came under the spotlight a year ago when the Registrar of Friendly Societies called for a new independent committee management.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays 12 per cent Midland, Lloyds, and Natwest 11½ per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month 14 per cent, 3 and 6 months, 13½ per cent Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds
Simco 7-day fund, 14.29 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.25 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.68 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — *15 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. *Reducing to 14 per cent on 1st March.

National Savings index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £[illegible],000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index. 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.81 including 4 per cent bonus.

National Savings certificates — 23rd issue
Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts — 9.75 pc. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 pc and 2 pc over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 pc over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority yearling bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 14⅝ pc basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbrocker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Cleveland 14 pc; 2 years, Kirklees 14⅝ pc; 3 years, Barnsley 14¾ pc; 4-5 years, Knowsley 14⅞ pc; 6-7 years Hereford and Worcester 15 pc; 8 years Knowsley 14⅞ pc; 9-10 years Reading 14⅞ pc.
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for Industry
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13¼ pc; 5-6 years, 13½ pc; 7 years, 13¾ pc; 8-9 years, 14 pc; 10 years, 14¼ pc. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 14 pc; 1 year, 14⅛ pc; 2 years, 14¼ pc.

Foreign currency deposits*
Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	Call	7-days notice
US dollar	12¾ p.c.	12⅞ p.c.
Yen (2 days)	2½ p.c.	2⅝ p.c.
D. Mark	6⅞ p.c.	7 p.c.
French Franc	10¾ p.c.	10⅞ p.c.
Swiss Franc	¾ p.c.	⅞ p.c.

*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

Unit Trust Performance

The tables show the value on February 1 of £100 worth of units invested 12 months ago (column A) and three years ago (column B)—net income reinvested and based on offer to offer price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Magazine.

FINANCIAL	A	B
Target/Invest Trst	125.4	185.7
S&P/Financial	123.3	157.9
Abbey Wldwd Bond	122.8	—
Target/Financial	121.2	177.6
GT Wld Bnd Fund	118.1	—
S&P/ITU	116.7	163.2
Abbey Invst Trst	115.9	155.6
J Finlay Inv Tst	115.8	165.7
Nat West Fincl	115.2	159.5
S&P/Int Bond	114.7	—
Kleinwort B Fits	114.6	171.9
Hill Samuel/Fin	112.7	178.4
Practical	112.2	150.6
M&G/Fits	111.6	178.0
Brown Ship Fin	110.1	175.6
Britannia Fin Sc	109.6	167.3
S&P/Scotbits	109.1	143.8
A Harvy & Ross G	109.0	—
Britannia Inv T S	106.4	154.8
Arbuthnot Capital	105.8	179.8
Craigmount Gilt	104.3	—
Barclayunic Fin	103.6	185.7
Britannia Prop S	103.4	174.2
London Wall/Fin	103.2	160.4
Henderson Fincl	103.1	204.7
S&P G&F Int Gth	103.0	—
A-Hambro Gov Sec	102.7	—
Tyndall/Gilt Inc	102.6	—
Target/Gilt Cptl	102.5	116.0
Britannia Gilt	102.2	—
Abbey Glt & Fd In	101.9	122.1
Barclayunic G Inc	101.8	—
Key Fixed Int	101.7	104.5
Hill Sam G&F Inc	101.2	—
M&G/Gilt Income	101.2	—
Gartmore Gilt	101.1	—
Arbuthnot F&Prp	101.1	145.9
Midland Draytn G	100.8	—
S&P G&F I Inc	100.8	—
Target Gilt Inc	100.7	—
Tyndall/Pref	100.3	106.4
Target/Pref	100.2	114.3
Henderson P&G	99.9	110.2
Arbuthnot G&F Int	99.5	110.0
Fidelity G&F Int	99.0	—
Henderson Gilt	97.8	—
Britannia Pref S	96.9	98.5
Arbuthnot Pref	93.9	103.4
Chieftn Pf & Gt	93.5	—

GROWTH	A	B
A-Hambro Os Erngs	132.4	159.0
Perptl Gwth	130.4	183.5
Targt Spcl Sits	128.7	210.2
Frnds Prov Uts	128.0	185.3
Hndsn Spcl Sits	127.8	180.6
Ryl Trst Cptl	125.8	169.4
Bcyunic Rec	125.7	146.6
M&G/Rec	125.4	172.0
Schrdr Gen	125.1	185.0
A-Hambro Rec Sits	125.1	167.6
Ulstr/Grth	125.0	140.8
Qltr/Qdrnt Rec	124.6	—
Hill Sam/Spcl Sits	124.5	—
Pearl Growth	124.4	162.7
Brn Ship Grth	124.0	183.7
Framlton Cap	122.9	166.1
Brit Assts	121.9	148.4
Gtmore Brtsh	121.6	186.7
Hendsn/Cap Grth	120.2	210.9
NPI Grth	120.0	161.0
Abby Captl	119.7	155.4
A-Hambro Acc	119.7	168.6
TSB Gnrl	119.6	165.7
Equ & Law Gen	118.7	162.4
Bcyunic Cap	118.2	156.4
Stewt Brit Cap	117.5	158.5
Nat West Grth Inv	117.4	143.7
HK Tech	117.3	126.6
Hill Sam/Cap	117.3	154.7
TSB Scot	117.2	155.3
Trgt/Grth	117.2	162.9
Hndsn Rec	117.0	119.0
S&P/Cap	116.8	137.6
Brng Brds Strtn	116.6	165.5
Fidty Spl Sits	116.2	—
Bclyunic Grth Accum	116.1	172.2
Bishgte Prog	115.2	160.3
Capel Cap	114.6	150.7
Nat West Capital	114.5	170.0
New Court equity	114.5	141.8
Lon Wall/Spe sit	114.5	108.8
Brown Ship rec	113.9	99.8
Arbuthnot Gnts	113.5	146.5
Schroder Captal	113.5	183.5
Gartmore Ins Ags	113.5	144.2
Weiler Growth	112.8	143.0
Manulife Growth	112.7	153.7
Brit spec mkt sit	112.5	172.2
Brit profess	111.7	168.5
M&G conv growth	111.7	185.1
Lon Wall Cap gth	111.6	119.7
HK private	111.1	186.0
Target prof	109.9	171.4
GT capital	109.8	182.3
T&G van gth	109.5	141.7
M&G/Com gth	108.6	159.7
Tyndall/capital	108.4	154.4
Craigmount rec	108.2	—
Midland Dray cap	107.8	133.9
Choularton gth	107.6	133.9
Buckmaster marl	107.2	133.5
Gartmore spec sit	106.1	—
M&G/Magnum	104.9	173.5
Martin Currie	104.8	—
Brit cap accum	104.6	137.1
Arbuthnot gth	104.4	151.5
Bridge capital	102.4	160.2
HK growth	99.5	136.6
Brit growth	97.9	134.8
Carr sebag cap	97.8	133.5
Tower spec sit	94.2	—

INCOME	A	B
Perpetual Income	138.3	—
Brown Shipley Inc	135.9	187.9
TSB Income	134.2	162.4
Barclayunic Income	133.7	162.5
M&G/Conv Income	133.4	148.8
Fidelity Max Inc Eq	133.2	—
Target/Income	132.9	131.2
Framlington Income	132.7	154.9
Framlington Ex Inc	132.6	—
Henderson Inc & Gr	132.5	192.3
Schroder Income	132.2	161.4
S&P High Return	132.1	127.1
Royal Trust Inc	131.0	137.0
Tyndall/Scot Inc	130.3	142.3
M&G/High Income	130.3	138.3
London Wall/H Inc	130.1	104.1
Nat West Income	129.2	167.2
Rowan High Yield	129.0	144.1
Henderson/High Inc	128.9	143.2
S&P/Select Income	128.9	141.7
M&G/Mid & Gen	128.8	118.1
Pearl Income	127.8	144.6
Ridgefield Income	127.4	110.4
Capel Income	127.3	129.9
Henderson Ex Inc	127.0	135.4
Tyndall/Income	126.9	134.0
Prolific High Inc	126.7	168.0
M&G/Dividend	126.7	142.5
Gartmore Extra Inc	126.5	121.3
Henderson Sm Co Dv	126.4	124.5
Great Winchester	126.4	132.1
Fidelity Gr & Inc	126.1	—
S&P/High Yield	126.0	141.1
Quilter/Quad In	125.8	120.4
A-Hambro High Inc	125.3	156.5
Lloyds Income	125.2	141.9
M&G/Extra Yield	125.1	129.2
A-Hambro High Yld	124.9	118.4
British Life Divd	124.8	117.8
Gartmore Income	124.6	139.5
Nelstar High Inc	124.4	101.5
Nat West Extra Inc	124.3	114.1
Hill Samuel/High Y	123.8	122.0
Midland Draytn Inc	123.3	142.2
Ansbacher Inc Mon	123.2	127.3
S&P/Scotyields	123.2	138.2
Midland Drayton HY	123.1	128.2
New Court Income	123.1	130.6
Britannia Nat H Inc	123.0	131.0
Gartmore High Inc	122.9	123.1
Barclayunic Ex Inc	122.2	138.1
Alben Income	122.2	137.1
A-Hambro Equity Inc	122.1	151.3
Britannia Extra Inc	122.1	107.0
Abbey Income	122.0	135.1
T&G/Wickmoor Div	121.9	137.1
Carliol High Yield	121.7	119.5
James Finlay H Inc	121.7	139.3
Craigmount Hgh Inc	121.5	103.7
Lloyds Extra Inc	121.5	128.8
Crescent High Dist	121.3	128.8
Britannia Inc & G	121.2	147.3
Discretionary	121.0	163.0
Hill Samuel/Income	120.9	135.4
T&G/Vanguard Hgh Y	120.7	130.2
Kleinwort Bnson HY	120.4	152.8
L&C Income	119.5	141.6
S&P Income	118.8	126.9
Mutual/High Yield	118.6	129.3
Key Income	118.0	121.7
Tower Inc & Growth	117.6	
Canlife Income	117.5	132.3
Carr Sebag Income	117.5	128.0
Target/Extra Income	116.1	114.2
Mayflower Income	116.0	123.7
Grieveson/Barr HY	115.5	121.9
HK Extra Income	115.0	121.9
London Wall/Ex Inc	114.6	82.7
Chieftain High Inc	114.2	110.3
Mutual/Income	113.5	134.0
HK Income	113.4	112.7
Bridge Income	113.4	134.9
Chieftain Inc & Gth	113.2	123.3
GT Income	113.2	123.3
Brown Shipley H Inc	112.8	107.6
Middle Mount H Inc	109.9	115.7
Buckmaster Cmbrld	107.6	118.4
Choularton Income	106.7	78.9
McAnally Delphi Inc	106.6	143.1
Arbuthnot High Inc	104.7	108.9
Dartington	102.4	
Arbuthnot Ex Inc	95.5	99.6
Arbuthnot High Yd	92.2	101.9

GENERAL	A	B
Mercury General	139.7	213.1
Barclayunic '500'	135.5	162.9
NatWest Smlr Cos	133.1	—
Pelican Units	131.9	175.9
Arbuthnot Smlr Cos	130.7	160.8
Norwich Un Gp Tst	129.1	158.6
MLA Trust	128.8	238.9
A-Hambro Gth&Inc	127.8	184.1
Reliance Opportunity	126.9	138.9
Intel Smlr Cos	126.5	—
New Court Smlr Cos	125.2	190.3
Reliance/Sekforde	125.0	130.1
Barclayunic Trustee	124.8	163.7
Pearl Trust	124.5	154.5
Barclaytrst Invstmt	123.9	160.6
Lloyds Balanced	123.6	171.7
T&G/Barbican	122.6	156.1
A-Hambro El & Ind	122.5	158.7
Legal & Gen Equ	122.4	179.0
G&A Units	122.2	163.4
Minster	122.1	145.5
Tyndall/Internt Eangs	121.9	161.4
M&G/Trustee	121.8	149.8
Abbey General	121.7	156.4
M&G/General	121.7	162.7
Schroder Sml Cos	121.3	—
Britannia Recovery	121.2	157.9
Brtnnia UK Blue Chip	120.9	156.7
Lloyds Sml Cos/Recov	120.8	—
A-Hambro 2nd Sm Cs	120.7	165.0
British Life	120.6	155.9
Quilter/Quadrant Gen	120.5	171.8
HK Small Cos	120.4	145.9
Lloyds Life Equity	120.4	172.7
Barclayunic Gen	119.8	157.3
T&G/Wickmoor	119.5	161.2
Grievesn/Barrngtn	118.9	175.2
Prudential/Prutst	118.7	157.5
Crescent Reserves	118.6	155.5
A-Hambro First	118.4	161.0
Chieftn Smaller Cos	118.1	
Equitas Units	118.1	149.6
Brown Shipley Indx	117.9	157.0
Brit Life Balanced	117.9	147.1
M&G Second General	117.7	164.1
A-Hambro Brit Ind	117.7	148.0
A-Hambro Fund	117.6	151.4
Hill Samuel/Scrty	117.3	146.8
T&G/Colemco	117.0	173.5
S&P/UK Equity	116.9	168.7
Family Fund	116.9	144.2
A-Hambro Smllr Cos	116.9	173.6
Leo Capital	116.7	173.6
Hendrson/Icme&Asst	116.6	143.2
Alben	116.6	144.4
Guardhill	116.5	171.3
Target/Equity	116.4	158.0
A-Hambro Capital	116.3	166.9
Kleinwt Bnsn Sm Co	116.3	144.2
Kleinwt Bnsn Ut Fd	116.3	161.2
Rowan Merlin	116.2	195.3
Trades Union Units	116.0	154.7
Britnia Smallr Cos	115.3	157.3
Hill Samuel/Brit	115.3	156.8
S&P/Scotshares	115.2	161.1
College Hill	115.0	135.7
Barclyunic Pro Asn	114.7	186.8
Grvson/Barr Sm Cos	114.5	
Confed Growth Unit	114.5	168.5
Vanguard Trustee	114.2	146.1
Key Small Cos Fund	113.2	171.4
Scottish Equit Unt	113.2	147.0
Anderson	113.0	140.2
Mutual/Blue Chip	112.6	136.5
Friars House	112.5	160.5
Rowan Securities	112.5	169.2
Key Equity and Gen	112.5	150.6
Mayflower General	112.3	126.1
Target Incm & Grth	111.5	
Nelstar Trust	111.1	150.0
Nat West Port Inv	110.9	134.4
M&G Smaller Cos	110.7	169.0
Mutl/Security Plus	110.1	126.1
Canlife General	109.9	137.1
Northgate	109.6	
Archway Fund	109.0	163.3
Britannia Domestic	108.4	142.3
Intel Incm & Grwth	108.0	120.2
Brown Shipley Unts	107.5	147.2
McAnally Glen Fund	107.3	147.3
HK Market Leaders	106.6	144.4
Britannia Cm & Ind	103.4	125.3
Govett/Stkhds Euro	102.7	
Britannia Shield	100.7	146.0
Buckmaster Buckhm	100.1	129.4
Rob Fraser Ut Trst	91.9	130.0

OVERSEAS	A	B
Hill Sam. Far East	148.6	—
Arbuthnot E & Intl.	141.2	208.4
Crescent Tokyo	136.8	165.6
S&P/Japan Growth	136.0	127.4
Grieveson/Ldn&Brus.	135.3	141.6
Bishopsgate Int	134.5	193.3
Henderson/Japan	132.0	148.1
Target/Pacific	130.3	168.7
Mid. Drayton Jap.	129.4	148.6
Henderson/European	129.1	115.8
Gt Winch. Overseas	128.1	186.6
GT Japan & Gen.	127.5	146.3
A-Hambro Japan	126.5	—
M&G/American Rec	125.0	—
Framlington Amer	123.8	175.3
Henderson/N Amer	123.7	151.9
Framlington Int G	123.5	189.9
Gartmore Japan	123.5	—
Lond Wall/Int	122.9	125.8
A-Hambro Sec of A	122.6	157.1
Grieveson/Endeavour	122.4	188.4
M&G/Japan	122.0	112.0
Framlington US Turn	121.6	—
Tyndall/N Amer	120.7	—
Stewart Amer Fund	120.7	149.5
Hill Samuel/Int	119.8	128.7
Lloyds Int Tech	119.4	—
Henderson/Pac SC	118.6	—
Prolific Int	118.4	161.1
Crescent Int	118.1	139.5
Rowan America	117.9	149.0
Chieftain Far E	117.8	179.1
Britannia Jap Perf	117.5	178.4
Arbuthnot Forgn	117.4	176.4
M&G/American	117.4	144.8
Murray European	116.9	79.6
Lloyds W'wide Gr	116.8	167.8
Bridge Int Rec	116.6	157.2
Hendersn Am Sml Cos	116.2	182.4
Nelstar Internatnl	115.4	
Intel Amer Technol	115.3	
Schroder Europe	115.2	74.9
Target Amer Eagle	115.2	148.5
Britannia Am Sml Cos	115.1	207.0
Fidelity Amer	115.1	
Britannia Am Grwth	115.0	155.0
S&P/US Growth	114.9	159.0
Tyndall/Far Eastn	114.5	
S&P/Europn Grwth	114.3	86.3
S&P/Sel Interntl	114.1	157.0
Hill Samuel/Dlr	113.9	125.2
Mayflower Intnl	113.7	139.1
A-Hambro Pacific	113.5	156.1
Grieveson/Granchtr	113.3	130.6
M&G/Far Eastrn	113.2	218.5
GTUS & Gen	113.0	174.9
Bridge Amer & Gen	113.0	158.0
NPI O'seas	112.7	155.1
Govett/Stockhldrs	112.7	131.5
Fidelity Am Sp Sts	112.7	
Britannia Am Sp Sit	111.9	144.7
Quilter/Quadrnt Int	111.5	
Mercury Intnl	110.7	143.7
Lloyds Nth Amer	110.4	
GT Internatnl	110.3	173.3
Abbey Amer Grwth	109.9	
A-Hambro Intnl	109.6	134.2
World Wide	109.6	222.5
Arbuthnot N Amer	109.5	121.3
New Court Intnl	109.5	151.9
Intel Pacific	109.1	228.8
Midland Drytn O'seas	109.1	136.8
Gartmore Interntl	108.9	160.9
Barclayunic W'wde	108.5	114.5
M&G/European	108.3	128.6
Barclayunic Amer	108.0	115.2
S&P/Sth E Asia	107.9	207.2
Midland Draytn Amer	107.9	105.7
Capel N American	107.5	112.4
HK Far East & Gen	107.3	155.8
Brown Shipley N Am	107.2	156.4
Chieftain Int	106.5	204.1
G T Far East & Gen	106.2	231.2
H K American	106.2	139.5
James Finlay Int	106.0	159.0
Henderson/Int	105.9	165.8
Fielding Int	105.8	—
Gartmore Far East	105.6	169.9
Crescent American	105.2	168.3
Gartmore American	104.0	152.0
Chieftain American	102.1	127.7
Choularton Int	99.4	—
Craigmount Nth Am	98.8	120.4
Nat West Nth Am	98.5	95.8
L&C Int & Gen	98.0	131.5
S&P/Universal Grth	97.6	130.4
Ridgefield Int	97.5	115.9
Britannia Far East	97.5	173.2
Britannia Int Grth	97.0	130.1
Henderson/Aust'lian	89.0	190.0
Barclayunic A'ralia	85.8	143.9
Craigmount Canadian	80.9	—
M&G Australasian	71.1	147.2

SPECIALIST	A	B
Target Commodity	108.1	178.9
A-Hambro Met & Mins	101.7	163.4
Britannia Gold & Gn	97.8	195.0
M&G/Commod & Gen	97.2	170.3
S&P/Commod Share	97.0	164.9
Gartmore Commodity	95.3	184.6
Britannia Minerals	94.1	201.2
Midland Drayton Com	93.0	147.8
Hend'son/Oil&Nat Rs	90.1	198.1
Tyndall/Nat Res	89.3	124.6
Arbuthnot Comm Shr	84.6	129.6
J. Finlay Wld Engy	84.2	—
New Court Engy Res	82.8	153.1
Target Energy	82.0	—
Brittania Comm Shr	81.9	161.2
S&P Energy Indus.	78.6	177.6
S&P Exploration	77.8	—
Chieftain Basic Res	76.5	167.2
Key Energy Industs	74.7	187.2
Britannia Uni Engy	74.6	195.7

Stock Exchange Prices

Confident mood

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

1981/82 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
102½	99¼	Treas	14%	1982	99[illegible]	..	14.010	14.874
97⅞	[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1982	97[illegible]	+⅛	8.430	13.830
96⅞	[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1982	96[illegible]	+⅛	9.549	14.693
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1983	92[illegible]	..	9.139	13.890
[illegible]	84⅞	Exch	3%	1983	93	•+⅛	3.227	10.323
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas	12%	1983	97[illegible]	+⅛	12.289	14.439
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1983	95[illegible]	+⅛	9.688	12.785
101[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch	13[illegible]	1983	99[illegible]	+⅛	13.567	13.794
95	[illegible]	Exch	10%	1983	94[illegible]	+⅛	10.540	13.209
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund	[illegible]	1982-84	89[illegible]	..	6.161	11.872
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch	11[illegible]	1984	95[illegible]	•+⅛	11.748	13.731
[illegible]	95[illegible]	Exch	14%	1984	99[illegible]	+⅛	14.106	14.377
[illegible]	77[illegible]	Exch	3%	1984	83[illegible]	..	3.580	11.000
[illegible]	90[illegible]	Treas	12%	1984	94[illegible]	+⅛	12.732	14.687
107[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas	15%	1985	100[illegible]	•+[illegible]	14.982	14.949
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch Cv	12%	1985	92[illegible]	+⅛	13.008	15.206
77½	71	Treas	3%	1985	77	+⅛	3.898	11.630
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas	11[illegible]	1985	90[illegible]	+⅛	12.671	15.048
[illegible]	87[illegible]	Exch	12[illegible]	1985	92	+⅛	13.316	15.078
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch	11[illegible]	1986	90[illegible]	•+⅛	13.038	15.101
72[illegible]	65[illegible]	Treas	3%	1986	72½	+⅛	4.138	11.285
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas	12%	1986	95[illegible]	+⅛	13.390	15.342
[illegible]	73[illegible]	Treas	8[illegible]	1984-86	82[illegible]	..	10.203	13.936
[illegible]	92	Exch	14%	1986	95	+⅛	14.736	15.519
103[illegible]	89[illegible]	Exch	13[illegible]	1987	93[illegible]	+⅛	14.227	15.289

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
145	106	Marks & Spencer	143	..	5.8	4.0	19.5
51	33½	Marley Ltd	45½	−1½	3.2	7.1	12.6
37	14½	Marling Ind	37	+1	1.4	3.8	25.9
50	22	Marshall T Lox	50	+2	4.0	7.9	4.5
48	21	Do A	48	+2	4.0	8.3	4.3
283	178	Martin News	283	+3	13.9	4.9	6.1
370	209	Martonair	226	..	10.9	4.8	13.2
74	48	Medminster	68	..	5.3	7.8	7.3
250	140	Menzies J.	238	..	5.6	2.4	11.9
224	128	Metal Box	184	+4	16.5	9.0	16.1
52¾	37¼	Metalrax	43	+1	3.1	7.3	7.0
25	12	Mettoy	15	..	0.1	0.9	..

O—S

T—Z

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
26	15	TACE	20	..	..e	..	6.0
121	85	TSL Therm Synd	93	..	10.0	10.8	5.1
25[illegible]	10[illegible]	Takeda BDR	£24[illegible]	+[illegible]	17.6	0.7	27.2
6½	2½	Talbex Grp	4½	−¼	..	..	..
440	316	Tarmac Ltd	436	−2	23.3	5.3	7.5
220	126	Tate & Lyle	216	..	16.4	7.6	5.8
607	441	Taylor Woodrow	580	..	19.0	3.3	10.3
400	250	Telephone Rent	368	+13	14.6	4.0	18.3

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
46	27½	Calcutta Elec	45	..	8.2	18.5	[illegible]
34½	29	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£33	..	500	15.2	..
34	20	Gt Nthn Tele	£33	..	160	4.5	22.4
265	150	Imp Cont Gas	213	−2	11.9	5.6	13.5
150	93	Milford Docks	150	..	0.7	0.5	..
193	122	Nesco Inv	135	..	10.0	7.4	..
35	29½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£32	..	500	15.2	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 5	Market rates (close) February 5	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.8525-1.8780	$1.8580-1.8600	0.15-0.25c disc	0.55-0.65c disc
Montreal	$2.2375-2.2620	$2.2400-2.2420	0.10-0.20c disc	0.50-0.60c disc
Amsterdam	4.76½-4.80½fl	4.78¼-4.79¼fl	1¼-1⅛c prem	5⅛-4⅜c prem
Brussels	74.00-74.70f	74.45-74.55f	10-30c disc	62-92c prem
Copenhagen	14.23-14.33k	14.28-14.30k	215-305ore disc	637-760ore disc
Dublin	1.2365-1.2440p	1.2390-1.2410p	30-45p disc	115-135p disc
Frankfurt	4.34½-4.38½m	4.35¾-4.36¾m	1⅛-1¼pf prem	4¾-4¼pf prem
Lisbon	126.75-128.50e	127.00-127.30e	45-165c disc	145-415c disc
Madrid	184.50-186.00p	184.60-184.80p	10-30c disc	60-85c disc
Milan	2322-2340lr	2328-2330lr	11¼-14¼lr disc	44-47lr disc
Oslo	10.98-11.09k	11.03½-11.04½k	75 prem-30ore disc	70 prem-35ore disc
Paris	11.04-11.13f	11.09¾-11.10¾f	½-1½c disc	3-4c disc
Stockholm	10.58-10.69k	10.63½-10.64½k	100-90ore prem	485-425ore prem
Tokyo	430-438y	433½-434½y	290-225y prem	865-830y prem
Vienna	30.40-30.65sch	30.50-30.55sch	13-9gro prem	40-32gro prem
Zurich	3.49-3.53f	3.50¼-3.51¼f	2-1½c prem	5½-5c prem

Effective change rate compared to 1975, was down 0.1 at 91.6.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%
Discount Mkt Loans%
Weekend: High 14[illegible] Low 13
Week Fixed: 14

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13[illegible]	2 months	13[illegible]
3 months	13[illegible]	3 months	13[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	13[illegible]-13[illegible]	1 month	14½
2 months	13¾-13[illegible]	2 months	14¼
3 months	13¾-13[illegible]	3 months	14½
6 months	13[illegible]-13[illegible]	6 months	14[illegible]

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15-14¾	7 months	14¼-14
2 months	15-14¾	8 months	14¼-14
3 months	14⅞-14⅝	9 months	14⅞-14⅝
4 months	14¾-14½	10 months	14⅞-14⅝
5 months	14½-14¼	11 months	14⅞-14⅝
6 months	14¼-14	12 months	14⅞-14⅝

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14[illegible]-14[illegible]	6 months	14[illegible]-14[illegible]
3 months	14[illegible]-14[illegible]	12 months	14[illegible]-14[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14¼	3 months	14½
7 days	14⅜	6 months	14[illegible]
1 month	14⅜	1 year	14[illegible]

Interbank Market (%)
Weekend: Open 14½-14⅜ Close 14⅝-14½

1 week	14⅝-14½	6 months	14¾-14[illegible]
1 month	14⅝-14[illegible]	9 months	14[illegible]-14[illegible]
3 months	14⅝-14[illegible]	12 months	14[illegible]-14[illegible]

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 15 6 months 15

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Treasury Bill Tender

Applications	£349m	allotted	£100m
Bids at	£96.61	received	74%
Last week	£96.62½	received	27%
Average rate	13.5681%	Last week	13.5123%
Next week	£100m	replace	£100m

Other Markets

Australia	1.7060-1.7210
Bahrein	0.7082-0.7082
Finland	8.3285-8.3685
Greece	111.50-113.50
Hongkong	10.9355-10.9755
Iran	n.a.
Kuwait	0.5320-0.5350
Malaysia	4.2745-4.3045
Mexico	49.60-51.10
New Zealand	2.3195-2.3395
Saudi Arabia	6.3995-6.4295
Singapore	3.9060-3.9360
South Africa	1.8200-1.8350

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.5000-1.5020
† Canada	1.2060-1.2063
Netherlands	2.5740-2.5770
Belgium	40.00-40.05
Denmark	7.6900-7.7000
West Germany	2.3450-2.3470
Portugal	68.30-68.50
Spain	99.40-99.50
Italy	1.253-1.255
Norway	5.9300-5.9400
France	5.9600-5.9700
Sweden	5.7150-5.7250
Japan	2.3340-2.3360
Austria	16.45-16.47
Switzerland	1.8825-1.8855

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8292-0.8294

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 14¼-15¼; seven days, 15⅛-15⅜; one month, 15[illegible]-15[illegible]; three months, 15⅝-15⅞; six months, 15[illegible]-15[illegible].

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $384.50 (an ounce); pm, $384.25 close, $384.25.
Krugerrand (per coin): $385-387 (£212.50-213.50).
Sovereigns (new): $94-95 (£50.50-51.50).

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
A and G Sec Elect 5p Ord (80a)	[illegible]
Baillie Gifford Japan Trust 25p Ord (100)	[illegible]
City Site 25p Ord (35a)	[illegible]
Computer and Systems Eng 20p Ord (225)	[illegible]
Cussins Property Group 20p Ord (82)	[illegible]
Equipu 10p Ord (80a)	[illegible]
Good Relations Group 10p Ord (61a)	[illegible]
Hardanger Properties 10p Ord (100a)	[illegible]
Hayters £1 Ord (150a)	[illegible]
Moray Firth Exp	[illegible]
Newmarket Co (1981) Ltd $0.05 ($3.05)	[illegible]
Nimslo Int 0.20 Ord ($4.25a)	[illegible]
Owners Abroad 10p Ord (10a)	[illegible]
Peek Holings 7p Ord	[illegible]
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	[illegible]
Speyhawk 10p Ord (115)	[illegible]
Television South 10p Ord NV (ak)	[illegible]
Do 14/20% 1988-88 Ln (ak)	[illegible]
Treasury 3% 1987	[illegible]
Treasury 2½% Index Linked 2011 (†f)	[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Davy Corp (140‡)	..	24 prem
Glass Glover (55†)	Mar 3	81 prem
MEPC (188‡)	Mar 23	38 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b £10 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £30 paid. i £35 paid. j £25 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit.

BUSINESS NEWS

ASSOC FISHERIES

Profits leap to £2m with state aid

Associated Fisheries, which has already been given almost £1m by the Government, indicated yesterday that it will need more state aid to survive without an EEC common fisheries policy. Lack of agreement over who can fish where and how much they can catch in the EEC pond has caused problems for the United Kingdom trawler owners.

Mr Keith FitzGerald, Associated Fisheries chairman, said that without the government money its British United Trawlers offshoot would have made substantial losses in the year to the end of last September.

Instead, the aid was enough to help push Associated Fisheries pretax profits for the period up from £5,000 to £2m on a turnover £6m lower at £62.6m. The total gross dividend has been doubled to 2.857p with a 2.5p final and the shares matched their 75p high for the year before closing 3p up on the day at 73p.

Mr FitzGerald refused to detail how the company had managed such a large profits increase, but said he will explain how much Government money was given to the group and why its associated companies made a £108,000 loss this time against a £22,000 profit last time in his annual report, due on February 16.

He said the outcome of the present year would depend on the economy and whether the group could contain the problems of its trawling interests. A write-back of £1m worth of deffered taxation has given the group £2.7m to transfer to reserves against £438.000 last time.

Over the past five years Associated Fisheries has spent a lot of time reducing its dependence on shipping to

Advances led declines 483-249 among the 1,062 issues crossing the tape. Early big an extent that now three quarters of capital employed is in on-shore activities. Over the same period pretax profits have gone from £1.9m to a loss of £2.9m in 1978 to £5,000 profits in 1980.

Mr FitzGerald told shareholders that the rationalization measures introduced in fish processing during 1979-80 largely averted a recurrence of that year's heavy losses and the group's financial costs were notably reduced as the result of a conservative approach to capital spending and working capital.

T M G GROUP

Losses continue

In the formal document dealing with the Dublin-based T M G Group's capital reconstruction and rights issue of convertible preference shares, the board reveals that heavy losses are expected for 1981. The loss, before tax and extraordinary items, is expected to be about £1.5m and the extraordinary losses about £1m.

In 1980, T M G made a pretax loss of £2.77m, against 1979's profit of £2.56m. In the same year extraordinary losses of £3.81m were also incurred.

T M G's board explains that group borrowings have escalated to an unacceptably high level relative to the group's reduced size and its shareholders' funds; a significant amount of new capital is required to correct the imbalance.

P & S NEWSPAPERS

Costly dispute

The fall in advertising is still affecting profitability at Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, publishers of 13 daily and weekly newspapers including the *Sunderland Echo* and the *Portsmouth News*.

Figures for the nine months to December show only a slight increase in pretax profit from £2.3m to £2.4m. Turnover is up to £19.6m from £16.2m.

The group says the results are affected by the regional newspaper dispute which it estimates caused a loss of £500,000. Earnings a share are slightly up at 13.6p compared with 13.3p. An extraordinary debit of £96,000 is the result of goodwill written off on the purchase of shops.

A subsidiary, Portsmouth and Sunderland News Shops, trades as newsagents and tobacconists.

Income from investments is down at £86,000 against £193,000, though interest receivable rose to £467,000 from £348,000. The company said the volume of advertising had been below expectation especially in the north-east where high unemployment discouraged customers from buying advertising space.

Last year the group made pretax profits of £112,000 on sales of £2.3m.

BERTRAMS

Receiver called

Mr Douglas Watt, of Coopers and Lybrand, chartered accountants, has been called in as receiver at Bertrams, the Edinburgh company which makes machinery for the paper and board industry and employs 130.

A series of losses at the company over the last few years is the result of severe contraction in the paper industry.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Watt said he was having discussions with the directors and senior staff on the trading and financial position. Until these were carried out, it was not possible to comment on the prospects for survival.

All avenues were being explored for the sale of the business as a going concern, but the situation had been explained to employees and union representatives.

Bertrams, which was founded in 1888, is 42.5 per cent owned by the McLeod Russel group.

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 5. — The stock market ended higher, although below its peak of the day, as attention focused on the money supply figures being released after the close.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 851.03, up 4.00, after being up more than six points earlier. Advances led declines by better than two to one.

After the close the Federal Reserve reported that M-1 fell $1,400m, which was at the low end of expectations.

	Feb 5	Feb 4		Feb 5	Feb 4		Feb 5	Feb 4
Allied Chem	41	41½	Fst Nat Boston	41½	41	Procter Gamble	84¼	84⅛
Allied Stores	26⅛	25	Fst Penn Corp	2⅝	2⅞	Pub Ser El & Gas	19	18¾
Allis Chalmers	13⅞	13⅞	Ford	18½	18⅛	Raytheon	36⅜	35⅜
Alcoa	22¼	22	GAF Corp	12⅝	12⅝	RCA Corp	18¼	19
Amax Inc	33⅜	33⅞	Gen Dynamics	26	25¾	Republic Steel	23½	23½
Amerada Hess	20⅝	20⅞	Gen Electric	62⅝	62⅝	Reynolds Ind	45¼	45¼
Am Airlines	11½	10½	Gen Foods	30⅝	30⅛	Reynolds Metal	19⅝	19¼
Am Brands	37½	36½	Gen Mills	34⅝	34⅝	Rockwell Int	31½	30¾
Am Broadcast	33⅛	32¾	Gen Motors	37⅜	37⅝	Royal Dutch	32	31⅛
Am Can	30¼	30¼	Gen Pub Util NY	5⅜	5⅞	Safeways	27¼	25¼
Am Cyanamid	28⅝	28¼	Gen Tel Elec	28⅜	28½	St Regis Paper	28⅛	28
Am Elec Power	16¼	16⅜	Gen Tire	20⅛	20¼	Santa Fe Ind	17½	17½
Am Home	36⅝	36⅛	Genesco	6⅛	6	SCM	21⅜	20½
Am Motors	2⅞	2⅞	Georgia Pacific	18⅝	17¾	Schlumberger	50½	50
Am Nat Res	34¼	34¼	Getty Oil	56¼	57	Scott Paper	16⅝	16⅛
Am Standard	25¾	25⅜	Gillette	34¼	33½	Seagram	53⅜	52⅝
Am Telephone	57¼	57⅝	Goodrich	20¼	19⅝	Sears Roebuck	16½	16⅜
AMP Inc	23	23⅞	Goodyear	18¼	19⅝	Shell Oil	37½	37⅜
Armco Steel	24⅝	24¼	Gould Inc	23	22	Shell Trans	28	27⅝
Asarco	23¾	22¾	Grace	43¾	43	Signal Co	25	25⅞
Ashland Oil	27⅜	28	Gt Atlte & Pacific	4⅛	4	Singer	13⅝	13⅜
Atlntic Richfield	38½	38¼	Greyhound	15¼	15⅜	Sony	15⅞	16¼
Avco	16⅝	16½	Grumman Corp	25½	25¾	Sth Cal Edison	28⅝	28¼
Avon Products	28	28½	Gulf Oil	30⅝	30	Southern Pacific	36¼	35¼
Bankers Tst NY	33¾	33⅜	Gulf & West	16⅝	16	Southern Rly	93¼	93¼
Bank of America	18½	18¼	Heinz H. J.	27¼	27	Sperry Corp	33	33¼
Bank of NY	40½	40	Hercules	20	20	Std Oil Califnia	33⅝	33⅞
Beatrice Foods	17½	17½	Honeywell	78⅛	72½	Std Oil Indiana	41¼	41½
Bendix	53⅜	53¾	IC Inds	32	32⅛	Std Oil Ohio	33⅝	34⅝
Bethlehem Steel	21¼	21¼	Ingersoll	53½	53⅛	Sterling Drug	23⅜	23
Boeing	20⅜	20½	Inland Steel	21⅞	21⅝	Stevens J. P.	16⅜	18
Boise Cascade	30⅝	31	IBM	63½	63¼	Sun Comp	37⅛	36¼
Borden	30⅜	29⅝	Int Harvester	7⅝	7⅛	Teledyne	134	133
Borg Warner	26⅝	26¼	INCO	13¾	13½	Tenneco	29½	28¾
Bristol Myers	55½	55	Int Paper	36	35⅝	Texaco	30¼	30½
BP	21⅝	21⅝	Int Tel Tel	28⅛	28½	Texas East Corp	45	44⅝
Burlington Ind	22	22⅞	Irving Bank	45⅜	44⅝	Texas Inst	81½	79¼
Burlington Nthn	49⅞	49⅜	Jewel Co	33⅜	33⅛	Texas Utilities	20⅛	19¾
Burroughs	33¼	32⅞	Jim Walter	18½	18⅝	Textron	24⅝	24⅝
Campbell Soup	34⅝	33½	Johnson & John	38¾	37	TWA	18½	18⅝
Canadian Pacific	30½	30½	Kaiser Alumin	14½	14⅛	Travelers Corp	47⅝	46⅝
Caterpillar	51¼	51½	Kerr McGee	35⅜	36¼	TRW Inc	50¼	50½
Celanese	53⅜	53	Kimberly Clark	63½	62⅞	UAL Inc	17	15⅞
Central Soya	11⅝	11½	K Mart	16⅝	16⅛	Union Carbide	45⅞	44⅝
Chase Manhat	59	57¼	Kroger	26⅛	26¼	Union Oil Calif	31½	31⅛
Chem Bank NY	51⅛	49	L.T.V. Corp	17½	17¼	Un Pacific Corp	41¼	43½
Chrysler	4¼	4⅛	Litton	55	54¼	Uniroyal	6⅝	6⅝
Citicorp	25¾	24¾	Lockheed	52⅝	53⅛	United Brands	10⅝	10⅝
Cities Service	34⅞	35⅛	Lucky Stores	12⅝	13	US Industries	8⅝	8⅝
Clark Equip	25	25⅝	Manuf Hanover	33½	33½	US Steel	25⅞	24⅛
Coca Cola	32¼	31⅝	Manville Cp	15⅞	15¼	Utd Technol	35⅞	35⅞
Colgate	18¼	17¾	Mapco	29⅞	30	Wachovia	24⅝	24⅝
CBS	45	45¼	Marathon Oil	74¼	73⅛	Warner Lambert	22¼	21⅞
Columbia Gas	30⅛	30	Marine Midland	24⅛	24	Wells Fargo	24⅞	24⅞
Combustion Eng	33	33	Martin Marietta	28⅛	29⅛	Westnghse Elec	25⅞	25½
Comwlth Edison	20	20⅛	McDonnell	30	30⅛	Weyerhauser	25¼	25½
Cons Edison	33½	33⅝	Mead	21⅛	21⅝	Whirlpool	25	25
Cons Foods	33	31½	Merck	83⅝	83	Woolworth	17⅛	17
Cons Power	16⅝	16⅜	Minnesota Mng	56¼	55⅝	Xerox Corp	38⅜	38¼
Continental Grp	31⅜	31	Mobil Oil	23¼	23⅞	Zenith	12¾	14¼
Control Data	38	34¼	Monsanto	68½	67⅞			
Corning Glass	44⅜	44⅝	Morgan J. P.	55⅝	54⅞			
CPC Intnl	38⅝	38¾	Motorola	55⅜	55¼			
Crane	31¼	31⅛	NCR Corp	45¼	42⅛			
Crocker Int	28⅜	28⅞	NL Industries	31¼	30⅛	*Canadian Prices*		
Crown Zeller	27	27⅛	Nabisco	33⅛	32¼			
Dart & Kraft	50½	50	Nat Distillers	22⅛	22⅝			
Deere	34⅜	34¼	Nat Med Ent	16⅜	16⅝	Abitibi	22¼	22
Delta Air	26⅝	25⅝	Nat Steel	24⅛	24¼	Alcan Alumin	23¾	23¾
Detroit Edison	11⅞	11½	Norfolk West	51½	50⅞	Algoma Steel	40	40¼
Disney	49¾	49¼	NW Bancorp	23¼	25	Bell Telephone	17⅛	17⅞
Dow Chemical	23⅜	23⅞	Norton Simon	20½	19⅝	Cominco	49⅞	50¼
Dresser Ind	25⅞	25½	Occidental Pet	22	22	Cons Bathurst	17¾	17½
Duke Power	20⅝	21¼	Ogden	25½	25⅛	Gulf Oil	14¼	14½
Du Pont	35⅞	35⅞	Olin Corp	20⅞	20⅝	Hawker/Sid Can	11½	11¼
Eastern Air	5¼	5⅜	Owens-Illinois	27⅝	27⅝	Hudson Bay Mng	20	20¼
Eastman Kodak	75⅜	74⅛	Pacific Gas Elec	21⅛	21⅛	Hudson Bay Oil	48⅛	48⅝
Eaton Corp	29	28⅞	Pan Am	3	2⅞	Imasco	40	40
El Paso Nat Gas	27¼	27	Penney J. C.	30⅜	30⅛	Imperial Oil	22¼	22⅝
Equitable Life	9⅛	9	Pennzoil	45½	42⅝	Int Pipe	14½	14⅝
Esmark	45¾	45⅞	Pepsico	37⅞	36½	Mass.-Fergsn	2⅝	3⅛
Evans P. D.	15½	15¼	Pfizer	57	56	Royal Trust	14¼	14⅝
Exxon Corp	29	29	Phelps Dodge	29¼	30	Seagram	64¼	63½
Fed Dept Stores	38¼	37½	Philip Morris	49	47	Steel Co	27¼	27⅛
Firestone	11	11⅝	Phillips Petrol	37	36½	Thomson N 'A'	23⅝	23¾
Fst Chicago	19	17⅞	Polaroid	20⅝	20⅝	Walker Hiram	16¼	16
Fst Intrst Bncp	31⅛	31⅜	PPG Ind	34½	33¼	WCT	12¼	12½

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

BIDS AND DEALS

Mergers cleared: Secretary of State for Trade, has decided, not to refer the following merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission: Burmah Oil — Croda International. Consortium of Banks — International Commodities Clearing House.

An extraordinary general meeting of **Linfood** has approved the sale of the Delivered Wholesale business, on the terms previously announced. The transaction remains conditional on the transfer of properties but it is expected that it will be completed by the end of Linfood's current financial year, which is on 24th April.

Resolutions were also passed giving the directors authority to issue share capital.

Allied Suppliers (Holdings) has passed a resolution not to re-register as a public company. The Companys Act gives to the holders of not less in the aggregate than 5 per cent in nominal value of any class of the issued share capital, or to not less than 50 of the company's members, the right to apply to the Court, within 28 days of the passing of the resolution, for it to be cancelled.

Highgate Optical and Industrial has completed the acquisition of Bracecard.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Ricoh Watch has reported a net loss of 2,180m yen (£5.2m) for the business year to November 30, 1981, compared with a 250m yen net profit a year earlier. Analysts later said the poor performance of the watch company is likely to trim the consolidated net income of the Ricoh Group. They forecast that the group's consolidated net profit will fall 11 per cent to 14,500m yen in the year to March 31, compared with 16,260m yen a year earlier.

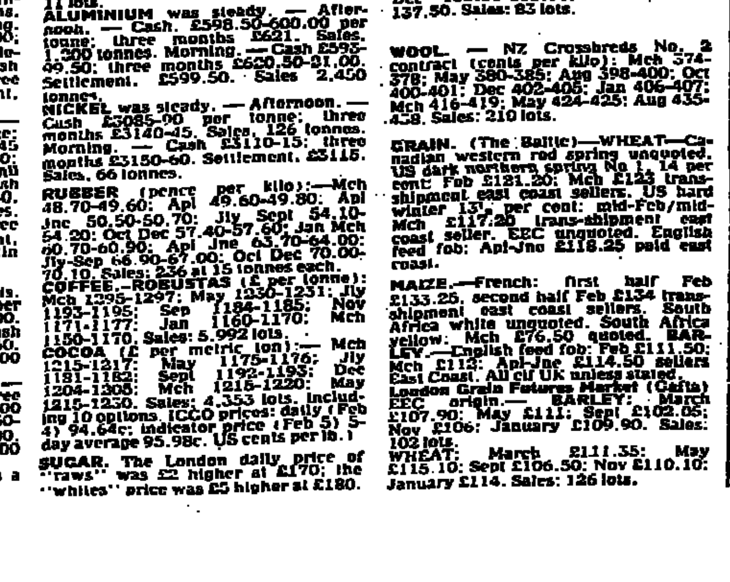
LATEST RESULTS

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
African Lakes (F)	9.52(10.0)	0.44(0.77)	8.66(7.48)	1.1(1a)	—	1.1(1a)
D. F. Bevan (I)	6.97(7.76)	0.03b(0.02)	0.7b(0.2)	0.2(0.2)	8/4	—(0.85)
Burt Boulton (I)	23.1(21.8)	0.27(0.64)	—(—)	2(3)	—	—(5)
English Assoc (I)	—(—)	0.91(0.52	6.44(6.66a)	1(0.62a)	9/4	—(3a)
Glasgow Stockholders (F)	—(—)	0.93(0.81)	2.68(2.4a)	1.4(1.2a)	23/3	2.3(2.1a)
Drayton Far Eastern (F)	—(—)	0.28(0.46)	—(—)	0.8(0.8)	2/4	1.2(1.2)
Brit. Amer. & Gen. Trust (F)	—(—)	2.2c(2.2c)	2.59(2.52)	1.5(1.4)	13/4	2.5(2.3)
Assoc. Fish (F)	62.6(68.6)	2(0.005)	7.85(2.74)	1.7(0.7)	—	2.0(1.0)
M. L. Hidgs (I)	12.9(12.4)	0.45(0.44)	5.6(7.05)	2(2)	7/4	—(7.0)
Portsmouth News (39 wks)	19.6(16.24)	2.4(2.3)	13.6(13.3)	—(—)	—	—(3.25)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428 Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a Adjusted for scrip issue; b Loss; c Gross revenues

COMMODITIES

The morning session on the LME was suspended following a bomb scare at Plantation House. [illegible]



SILVER was quiet. — Bullion market (fixing levels). Spot 455.90p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent 851.60): three months 471.20p (882.40c): six months, 487.45p (915.10c): one year 518p (976.40c). London Metal Exchange. — Afternoon. — Cash 457.5-58.5p three months 477-7½p. Sales: four lots of [illegible]

Futures (£ per tonne): Mch 176.50-176.70: May 179.00-179.25: Aug 182.10-182.30: Oct 185.00-185.10: Jan 185.50-186.50: Mch 190.00-190.50: May 191.00-193.00. Sales 3,317 lots. ISA prices (Feb 4): daily 13.16c: 15-day average 13.14c.

SOYABEAN MEAL (£ per tonne): — [illegible]

Cricket

Ole Man River's side make it difficult for England to follow

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney, Feb 5

It is time for a general post again. On the day that England arrive in Sri Lanka, the West Indians leave Australia for home and the Australians prepare to go to New Zealand. The West Indians face a domestic programme unhampered by international cricket, their mission in Australia satisfactorily accomplished.

They will be a difficult side to follow, which is what England have to do next winter. "Will you no come back again? Better loved you'll never be.": The words of James Hogg sum up, pretty well, how the Australian public felt about Clive Lloyd and his team as he was borne from the field in Adelaide on Wednesday evening.

Although Australia had just lost a Test match and so been narrowly deprived of winning a series, what counted for more was the cricket. West Indies, once again, have made a compelling contribution to someone's season.

They fly off, hoping to return before 1987-88 when, by present arrangements, they are due here next. No doubt they will. Because, for their success, they rely so heavily on fast bowling, much of it unattractively short, I look forward to the day when they are obliged to acknowledge again the virtues of spin. It has to come, even if some sort of legislation concerning over-rates may be what brings it about.

In this series, as it happens, West Indies averaged 15 overs an hour. Though not good enough, that is a lot better than what has been perpetrated in India. England's 9.2 overs in the first hour of a day's play in a Test match in Madras sent a shudder even through those acquainted with the obstacles that can cause delays there.

The main awards—covering the Test series between Australia and West Indies and the overall one-day competition—have gone to Holding (the player of the series) and Yardley (the cricketer of the year). Yardley's reward was a new car which he proposes to keep.

Although Holding has stayed behind in Australia for an operation on a knee—more exploratory than anything—he has still managed to bowl with that lovely rhythm which makes him the game's finest athlete. What comes naturally to Holding has to be worked at by Yardley, whose 38 wickets with off breaks struck a timely blow for spin. Second to Yardley in the voting was Imran Khan, the Pakistani all-rounder.

This was Lloyd's sixth tour of Australia, a record to equal Colin Cowdrey's, besides those when he came with the circus. Two years ago, after West Indies had beaten Australia for the first time in Australia, Lloyd said that was it; he had fulfilled a great ambition; he was getting old and it was time to retire. Yet here he still is, batting as well as ever and more active in the field than for quite a while.

I have never thought of Lloyd as an astute tactician so much as a regulator of fast bowlers—a turner on and off of switches. He is, however, as the late Frank Worrell was, a father figure. He is Ole Man River. At 38 he hopes to play against India in a year's time—if he feels he is still good enough and "the team want me". There is not much doubt that they will.

The emergence of Dujon as a batsman of brilliant promise has been an unexpected West Indian gain. Until now he has not been able to get in above No. 7 for a weakish Jamaica side. Yet he is a star in the making.

After some years of bringing on the drinks, Gomes has established himself as a quietly dependable No 4 or 5. He has been the outstanding batsman of the Australian season, all others included, with a first-class average of nearly 90.

Though pleased to have beaten Pakistan and not dissatisfied with a shared series against West Indies, the Australians will not rest until they have avenged those shattering defeats in England last summer. When West Indies just beat them in Adelaide on Wednesday, there were no recriminations, only expressions of delight that it had been such a very good game of cricket.

It will be different next winter. It matters what happens against England. My oath it does. There is a score to be settled.

It should be a close series, with plenty of runs. I tell them in Australia that they may have a nasty shock when, if he comes, they find how good a player Allan Lamb is. Gooch, Gower, Gatting, Botham and Lamb would be an attractive batting line-up.

Despite the endless propaganda from Channel Nine, often from old Test cricketers whose words must turn to ashes in their mouths, and in contradiction of the record crowds which went to Melbourne one day and to Sydney on another, there is, I think, a growing feeling that a little of the one-day stuff goes a long way.

Just in time, the Australian Cricket Board have asserted their authority and insisted that in 1982-83 Test Cricket shall have priority. The need to vindicate them in this is another reason for England to play, wherever possible, entertaining cricket at the end of this year.

Although a minimum of 10 one-day matches for each side and a maximum of 15 is too many — that is what the Australian Board have proposed for England's tour — it could, this once, be a price worth paying for being allowed to spend two and a half months playing, without interruption, the type of cricket England's cricketers, and Australia's, too, most enjoy.

The game's finest athlete in action: injury could not conceal Holding's lovely rhythm.

Boycott tells his Yorkshire story

By Keith Macklin

After at first appearing reluctant to cooperate, Geoffrey Boycott has spoken to the sub-committee looking into the fortunes—or perhaps misfortunes—of Yorkshire County Cricket Club

Peter Dobson, the independent chairman of the committee, has indicated that further talks will be held with the team manager, Ray Illingworth, before another report is given to the full county committee.

The Yorkshire secretary, Joe Lister, said yesterday that no other statement would be issued until the full committee had considered the further report of the sub-committee.

Final England Test averages

England

Batting

	M	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Avge
I T Botham	6	8	0	440	142	55.00
G A Gooch	6	10	1	487	127	54.11
D I Gower	6	9	1	375	85	46.87
G Boycott	4	8	1	312	105	44.57
C J Tavaré	6	9	0	349	149	38.77
K W R Fletcher	6	9	2	252	69	36.00
G R Dilley	4	5	0	70	52	14.00
M W Gatting	5	6	1	68	32	13.60
R G D Willis	5	4	2	26	13	13.00
D L Underwood	6	7	4	38	13*	12.66
R W Taylor	6	7	1	57	33	9.50
P J W Allott	1	1	0	6	6	6.00
J K Lever	2	2	0	3	2	1.50
J E Emburey	3	4	0	4	2	1.00

*Not Out.

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avge
J K Lever	73	16	204	7	29.14
R G D Willis	129.1	29	381	12	31.75
J E Emburey	99	31	222	6	37.00
I T Botham	240.3	53	660	17	38.82
D L Underwood	224	99	438	10	43.80
G R Dilley	105	17	350	7	50.00

ALSO BOWLED: P J W Allott, 33—4—135—0 K W R Fletcher, 6—2—20—1; M W Gatting, 1—0—4—0, G A Gooch, 33.1—6—77—2; D I Gower, 2—0—2—1; C J Tavare, 2—0—11—0; R W Taylor, 2—0—6—0.

India

Batting

	M	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Avge
Yashpal Sharma	2	3	1	220	55*	110.00
S Gavaskar	6	9	1	500	172	62.50
G R Viswanath	6	8	0	466	222	58.25
Kapil Dev	6	8	2	318	116	53.00
D B Vengsarkar	6	8	1	292	71*	41.71
P Roy	2	3	1	71	60*	35.50
R Shastri	6	6	1	140	93	28.00
S Madan Lal	6	5	2	69	44	23.00
K Srikkanth	4	6	0	119	65	19.83
S M H Kirmani	6	6	1	99	67	19.80
S M Patil	4	6	1	95	31	19.00
Kirti Azad	3	4	0	71	24	17.75
A Malhotra	2	2	0	31	31	15.50
S Yadav	1	1	0	5	5	5.00
D R Doshi	6	5	2	14	7*	4.66

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avge
D Doshi	257.5	103	468	22	21.27
S Madan Lal	159	34	432	14	30.85
Kapil Dev	243.5	40	835	22	37.95
R Shastri	233	73	462	12	38.50
S M Patil	17	2	60	1	60.00
Kirti Azad	46	10	153	1	153.00

ALSO BOWLED: S Gavaskar, 4—0—14—0; K Srikkanth, 6—1—10—0, S Yadav, 20—7—53—0.

Rugby League

Pressure on Widnes as rivals stay in touch

By Keith Macklin

The pressure is still on Widnes as the first division championship enters the home straight. Leigh, with a last minute dropped goal success at Bradford on Thursday, show no signs of flagging, and Hull's victory over Wigan on Wednesday keeps them well in contention.

If Leigh and Hull win all their matches in hand, albeit a tall order, they will overhaul Widnes who may count themselves lucky to have the easiest fixture of the three in tomorrow's programme.

Widnes visit Whitehaven, who have yet to win a first division game this season, but will remember that the Cumbrian club gave them a fright in the fixture at Naughton Park until a late try by Burke won the game for Widnes.

Leigh, facing their third Yorkshire club in a week, travel to Featherstone, where the Rovers, although deep in relegation trouble, are still an attractive side capable of surprising any team. If Leigh are nursing injuries after Thursday's game, they could come a cropper on the ground which has seen innumerable giant killings in the past.

Hull also travel to face relegation-threatened opposition. They have just signed Steve Evans, the Featherstone back, for £70,000 and have their increasingly strong panel on show. However, Trinity are another side of great traditions who give of their best against the best, and this result is by no means a foregone conclusion.

Fulham's tenure of office in the first division seems likely to end in April unless they can string some results together. Injuries to key players, plus transfer requests, are not helping the Craven Cottage cause, which is a pity, since attendances are holding up remarkably well. Fulham may be able to lift themselves sufficiently at the Cottage tomorrow to beat Barrow, who are fourth but have played a lot of matches, and do not travel well.

In the second division, Cardiff City, who last week suffered their biggest home defeat against Oldham, travel to Watersheddings for the return fixture. They can hardly be confident after conceding more than 30 points at Ninian Park.

After Bradford Northern had been favourites to sign the Widnes utility back Kieron O'Loughlin, who is transfer listed at £30,000, another Yorkshire club yesterday stepped into the bidding. Castleford, who visit Wigan tomorrow, have entered with an offer after hearing that snags had developed in the Bradford bid. Widnes have apparently rejected suggestions from Bradford that the fee should be paid through a down payment followed by instalments.

Boxing

Dispute between McKenzie and Francis settled

Clinton McKenzie, the British and European light-welterweight champion, and his manager, George Francis, have settled the dispute which threatened to end their association. Mr Francis and McKenzie had appeared at a British Boxing Board of Control meeting in London called to hear complaints by both men of alleged mismanagement and contract breaking.

The hearing was adjourned till next month without the complaints having been heard. Mr Francis will be in McKenzie's corner for his British title defence against Steve Early at Bloomsbury on February 19. McKenzie has withdrawn the complaints against his manager and looks forward to the resumption of a successful association.

□ The battle is warming up for places in the Wales team for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in October. Raymond Jones, manager of the overall Welsh squad for the Games, said: "We are very confident of reaching the £50,000 appeal fund target but there is no way we will send someone all the way to Brisbane if it is going to be a waste of time and money.

Bobsleigh

Record run by Scharer dims Britain's hopes

From Ronald Faux
St Moritz, Feb 5

The Olympic champions, Erich Schärer and Max Ruege, of Switzerland, broke the track record here in practice for this weekend's world two-man bobsleigh championship.

The Swiss were more than two seconds faster than either of the British sleighs and in a sport where fractions of a second separate champions from the rest, early hopes of a high placing for the British team have been dimmed.

The first British team, who are sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant, will be Jonathan Woodall, aged 37, an army officer from Plymouth, and Paddy Breedin, 27, a PE teacher and decathlete from Luton. The second British sleigh will be Malcolm Lloyd, 34, an army staff sergeant from south Wales, and Peter Brugnani, 23, a decathlete from London.

In practice the Swiss held first and third best times, separated by the East Germans. Schärer descended the 480 metre track in 1 min 9.93 sec. The British teams, who were thirteenth and fourteenth, had a best time of 1 min 12.33 sec.

Hockey

Southgate in earnest

By Sydney Friskin

Most of England's leading players are able to assist their clubs in the first round of the National Championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, tomorrow. Many of the results seem predictable but recent events have shown that the weaker sides should not be taken too lightly.

This may be why Southgate are taking a strong force to Amersham. Even without Thomas and Western, who are away on a Welsh training weekend, Southgate still have Owen, Duthie, Spray, Craig, Wallace, Dodds, Driver, McGinn, Brookeman, Kerly and Batchelor. This could be recognized as a full England side and Amersham appear to have little chance.

But one match which should not be one-sided is that between Hounslow and Guildford. They have not met in the London League this season and will not do so, which makes their meeting all the more exciting.

The Hounslow side, consisting of Brightwell, Sibia, Reeves, Meekins, Briggs, Thomson, Precious, Kulbir Bhaura, Evans, Channa, Charanjit Bhaura, should pose a few problems for Guildford, who are equally well equipped with Francis back in their attack and Carley, Pinks, Cottrell, Gallimore, Peet all there to provide the answers.

Durham University are at home to Neston in the only match to be played in the north of England, all other northern clubs being away. Durham have included Cutter, who earned his first cap for Yorkshire last week, but Neston with Wilkinson, Greene, Smith and Ashcroft in their ranks look much stronger.

Correction

In the report of the hockey match between Oxford University and the RAF in Thursday's paper, the score by which Yorkshire beat the RAF should have read 1—0, not 10—0.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Islanders 5, Washington Capitals 2; Detroit Red Wings 6, Chicago Black Hawks 4; Boston Bruins 5, Buffalo Sabres 2; Philadelphia Flyers 3, Minnesota North Stars 3; New York Rangers 4, Calgary Flames 4.

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.

First division

Birmingham v Middlesbro
Brighton v Everton
Leeds v Coventry
Liverpool v Ipswich
Manchester U v Aston Villa
Notts County v Swansea
Southampton v Manchester C
Stoke City v West Ham U
Sunderland v Arsenal
Tottenham v Wolves
West Brom v Nottm Forest

Second division

Bolton v Barnsley
Cambridge U v Newcastle
Cardiff v Rotherham (12.0)
Charlton v Crystal Palace
Leicester v Derby
Norwich v Wrexham
Orient v Blackburn
QP Rangers v Grimsby
Sheffield Wed v Luton
Shrewsbury v Oldham
Watford v Chelsea

Third division

Brentford v Portsmouth
Bristol City v Fulham
Burnley v Bristol Rovers
Chester v Gillingham
Chesterfield v Walsall
Exeter v Doncaster
Lincoln v Plymouth
Oxford Utd v Newport
Preston NE v Swindon
Reading v Millwall
Southend v Carlisle
Wimbledon v Huddersfield

FA TROPHY: Second round: Bishop's Stortford v Maidstone United; Chorley v Bishop Auckland; Dartford v Northwich Victoria; Epsom and Ewell v Altrincham; Harlow Town v Sutton United; Hyde United v Wycombe Wanderers; Merthyr Tydfil v Enfield; Runcorn v Lancaster; Slough Town v Rossendale United; Telford United v Bedford; Wealdstone v Dagenham; Witton Albion v Hendon; Woking v Mossley; Worcester v Croydon; St Albans v Scarborough; Kidderminster v Blyth Spartans.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Barrow v Barnet; Frickley v Yeovil; Gravesend v AP Leamington; Kettering v Bath; Trowbridge v Stafford Rangers; Weymouth v Boston United.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Bangor City v Goole; Burton Albion v South Liverpool; Gainsborough v Grantham; King's Lynn v Southport; Marine v Workington; Matlock v Morecambe; Netherfield v Macclesfield; Oswestry v Gateshead; Tamworth v Worksop.

Fourth division

Colchester v Sheffield Utd
Darlington v Bournemouth
Halifax v Aldershot
Hereford v Tranmere
Hull City v Northampton
Mansfield v Port Vale
Rochdale v Peterborough
Scunthorpe v Torquay (3.15)
Stockport v Bury
Wigan Ath v Hartlepool
York City v Bradford City

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Morton
Dundee v Celtic
Hibernian v Dundee Utd
Partick Th v St Mirren

Scottish first division

Ayr v Clydebank
Dumbarton v Falkirk
Dunfermline v Raith
E. Stirling v Hearts
Motherwell v Queen of South
Queens Park v Hamilton

Scottish second division

Berwick v Arbroath
Brechin v Alloa
East Fife v Clyde
Forfar v Cowdenbeath
Meadowbank v Stenhousemuir
Stranraer v Stirling Alb

Scottish Cup

Third round

Gala Fairydean v St Johnstone
Kilmarnock v Montrose
Rangers v Albion

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Aston Villa v Bury (2.0); Blackburn v Bolton; Blackpool v Manch Utd (2.0); Everton v Burnley (2.0); Huddersfield v West Brom (2.0); Manch City v Stoke (2.0); Newcastle v Preston (2.0); Nottm Forest v Sheff Utd (2.0); Wolverhampton v Leeds (2.0).

IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Ards; Bangor v Distillery; Cliftonville v Coleraine; Glentoran v Linfield; Larne v Glenavon; Portadown v Crusaders.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Arsenal v Oxford Utd; Bristol Rovers v Southampton; Chelsea v Birmingham (2.15); Crystal P v Watford; Ipswich v QP Rangers; Luton v Leicester; Plymouth v Orient; Swindon v Tottenham (2.0); West Ham v Norwich (2.0).

ARTHUR DUNN CUP: Second round: Malvernians v Chigwellians (2.0).

BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: Hungerford v Buckingham.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: First round: Redhill v Merstham.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Banbury v Cheltenham; Barry v Nuneaton; Bromsgrove v Wellingborough; Gloucester v Taunton; Milton Keynes v Corby; Redditch v Bridgend; Stourbridge v Bedworth; Witney Town v Cambridge City. Southern division: Addlestone and Weybridge v Dorchester; Andover v Dover; Aylesbury v Basingstoke; Canterbury v Salisbury; Dunstable v Ashford; Folkestone v Crawley; Gosport v Hastings; Poole v Hounslow; Tonbridge v Thanet United; [illegible]

Rugby Union

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v Ireland (at Twickenham, 2.30); Wales v France (at Cardiff, 2.30).

CLUB MATCHES: Birmingham v Wakefield (2.30), Boroughmuir v Haddington (2.45), Bradford v Nuneaton (2.30), Broughton Park v Orrell (2.45), Cambridge University v The Army (12.0), Cheltenham v Rugby, Fylde v Harrogate (2.30), Gala v Kelso (3.45), Glamorgan Wanderers v Weston-super-Mare (11.0), Glasgow Academicals v West of Scotland (2.45), Glasgow High v Watsonians (2.45), Gosforth v New Brighton (2.30), Hawick v Royal High (2.45), Leicester v London Scottish, Langholm v Melrose (2.45), Jed-Forest v Ayr (2.45), Morley v Halifax (2.30), Moseley v Wasps, Northern v Vale of Lune (2.30), Plymouth Albion v Torquay (7.0), Richmond v Headingley (11.0), Roundhay v Hartlepool Rovers (2.30), Sale v Liverpool, Selkirk v Kilmarnock (2.45), Sheffield v St Helens, West Hartlepool v Heriot's (1.0), Stewarts/Mel FP v Edinburgh (2.45), Oxford University v Sydney University (11.0).

Hockey

LONDON LEAGUE: Beckenham v Cambridge University; Hawks v Dulwich; Hounslow v Bromley; London University v Slough; Mid-Surrey v Southgate; Purley v Cheam; Reading v Hampstead; Richmond v Tulse Hill; Spencer v Maidenhead; Surbiton v Blackheath; Teddington v St Albans; Wimbledon v Oxford University.

TRUMAN SOUTH LEAGUE: Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Bank of England v Portsmouth & Southsea; Bournemouth v Epsom; Camberley v Nat West Bank; Fareham v Chichester; Met Police v Hamble Old Boys; Trojans v Havant; Walton v Old Tauntonians. Kent/Sussex: Bognor v East Grinstead; Folkestone Opt v Worthing; Gravesend v Marden Russets; Lloyds Bank v Lewes; Old Williamsonians v Canterbury; Sevenoaks v Anchorians; Tunbridge Wells v Eastbourne. Middlesex/Berks, Bucks & Oxon: Aylesbury v City of Oxford; Courage v Oxford Hawks; Eastcote v Banbury; Indian Gymkhana v Hayes; Lyons v Windsor; Polytechnic v Goan; Sunbury v Amersham.

WOMEN'S: County Championship North (at Lytham St Annes); County matches: Avon v Combined Univs (at Bristol Univ); Huntingdonshire v Bedfordshire (at Kimbolton School); Oxfordshire v Worcestershire (at Cotteslowe Oxford).

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND: First division: Mellor v Ashton; Old Hulmeians v South Manchester & Wythenshawe; Old Stopfordians v Heaton Mersey; [illegible]

Basketball

[illegible]

Cross Country

[illegible]

Squash Rackets

[illegible]

Volleyball

[illegible]

Athletics

[illegible]

Tomorrow

Football

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Gateshead v Matlock.

ARTHUR DUNN CUP: Second round: (3.0): Salopians v Lancing OB.

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Coventry v Waterloo; Saracens v Northampton; Metropolitan Police v Harlequins (2.45).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined London OB v Netherlands "B" (Old Whitgiftians, 2.30).

MIDDLESEX CUP: Third round: Old Meadonians v Old Gaytonians.

SUSSEX CUP: Semi-final: Lewes v Bognor.

Rugby League

FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone Rovers v Leigh; Fulham v Barrow; Hull Kingston Rovers v Bradford Northern; St Helens v Leeds; Wakefield Trinity v Hull (3.30); Warrington v York; Whitehaven v Widnes; Wigan v Castleford.

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Batley; Carlisle v Doncaster; Dewsbury v Huddersfield (3.30); Halifax v Salford; Hunslet v Workington Town; Oldham v Cardiff City; Rochdale Hornets v Huyton; Swinton v Keighley.

Hockey

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: First round (2.0): Amersham v Southgate; Bishop's Stortford v Reading; Bluebarts v York (at Hitchin C.C., 1.45); Bournville v Preston (1.45); Bromley v St Albans; Durham Univ v Neston; Fareham v British Steel (12.0); Firebrands v RAF Strike Command (at Failand, Bristol, 2.15); Ford's v Derby (at Ilford); Hounslow v Guildford (1.30); Isca v Stone (at Exmouth C.C.); Maidenhead v Portsmouth and Southsea; Nottingham v Royal Engineers (1.45); Olton & West Warwick v Cambridge City (1.45); Slough v Hendon (2.15); West Gloucester v Richmond (at Colston's School, Bristol).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Mid-Surrey v R.A.F. (at New Malden).

LONDON LEAGUE: Southgate v Hampstead.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North (at Lytham St Annes).

COUNTY MATCHES: Hertfordshire v Gloucestershire (at Welwyn GC); Nottinghamshire v Lincolnshire (at Players, Nottingham); Somerset v Combined Universities (at Morlands).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford Etceteras v W.R.A.F. (at Oxford).

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division [illegible]

Ice hockey

[illegible]

Badminton

[illegible]

Squash rackets

[illegible]

Volleyball

[illegible]

Irish and French provide bold rugby challenge

Solid beginning could help England to top of championship table

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

A distinctly anxious week for the English camp took a more cheerful turn yesterday when Peter Wheeler, whose back was injured at training last Monday, was passed fit to play against Ireland in the international at Twickenham this afternoon.

As it is, England take the field with a side showing two enforced changes and two deliberate ones as compared with that which drew 9—9 at Murrayfield. Jim Syddall, on his international debut, and Tony Bond, acquiring his first cap for two years, are the replacements at lock and centre.

John Scott, who will be playing only his third game of the season, has been recalled at No 8 to provide greater control at the back, to boost the lineout potential and to renew what has always been a fruitful rapport with the new captain, Steve Smith. Phillip Blakeway, a redoubtable tight-head prop, has been restored to anchor the scrummage which the Scots subjected to some disruptive wheeling.

If the reconstituted pack looks less mobile than its predecessor, it may also have the claim to being the heaviest to appear in England jerseys. Syddall is a bigger man than Beaumont at 6ft 5in and 17st 2lb. Maurice Colclough weighs in at 17 stone and a half, Colin Smart, Blakeway, Scott and Nick Jeavons at 16st or more. Colclough is the same height as Syddall, Scott and Jeavons not more than an inch below him. The average weight is not much less than 16 stones.

In purely physical terms, then, England should have the means to win the set pieces, and no Irishman will be unmindful of the beating their forwards received at Twickenham two seasons ago, when, admittedly the England pack included Fran Cotton, Roger Uttley and Tony Neary.

That rousing English effort, inspired by Beaumont, was achieved against an Irish eight, seven of whom survive for this further chance to redeem themselves. The young lock, Donal Lenihan, who had an especially fine game at the lineout against Wales, is the only newcomer.

There was little control about the Irish forward effort in 1980, less fire in the belly than had been anticipated. Ireland produced both in that emphatic victory over Wales a fortnight ago, and England will not be expecting any surprising bonuses now.

Nor will they look for excuses if they give the Irish mainspring, "Ollie" Campbell, as much licence as the Welsh allowed him close in. Paul McLean (Australia) and John Rutherford (Scotland) will testify to the pressure they faced from England's fast and fiery new flanker, Peter Winterbottom. Jeavons brought off some crunching tackles at Murrayfield.

Scott, though it may be asking too much of him to roam the wide open spaces for 80 minutes, is a hard and knowledgeable opponent at close quarters. And the stand off, Huw Davies, will contribute far more as a defender than his limping namesake was able to offer in Dublin. As the England coach observes, "Huw Davies is no 'duty' tackler. He sees it as a vital and enjoyable part of his job."

In defensive terms, too, England certainly will be no worse off with Bond, a voracious tackler, in their midfield. "It's tough luck on Paul Dodge," he said yesterday, "but I have to admit that I couldn't keep the grin off my face when I heard the great news that I was playing—and being given the chance to complete a game against Ireland."

If Ireland can recapture the inspiration and control revealed against Wales, they will be desperately hard to beat. They have a battle-hardened pack, a brilliant general and master kicker at stand off and fast and skilful young backs. Yet, although the odds on a victory for the home side must have shortened this week, I suggest, unabashed chauvinist that I am, that England still start as slight favourites. A solid beginning, as Mike Davis has observed, may be crucial to their hopes of two points and a place atop the championship table.

Peter Wheeler and the England pack take a breather from scrummaging practice.

Today's teams at Twickenham

England			Ireland	
W. M. H. Rose (Cambridge University)	15	Full back	H. P. MacNeill (Dublin University)	15
J. Carleton (Orrell)	14	Right wing	T. M. Ringland (Queen's University)	14
C. R. Woodward (Leicester)	13	Right centre	M. J. Kiernan (Dolphin)	13
A. M. Bond (Sale)	12	Left centre	P. M. Dean (St Mary's College)	12
M. A. C. Slemen (Liverpool)	11	Left wing	M. Finn (Cork Constitution)	11
G. H. Davies (Cambridge University)	10	Stand-off	S. O. Campbell (Old Belvedere)	10
S. J. Smith* (Sale)	9	Scrum half	R. J. M. McGrath (Wanderers)	9
C. E. Smart (Newport)	1	Prop	P. A. Orr (Old Wesley)	1
P. J. Wheeler (Leicester)	2	Hooker	C. F. Fitzgerald* (St Mary's College)	2
P. J. Blakeway (Gloucester)	3	Prop	G. A. J. McLoughlin (Shannon)	3
N. C. Jeavons (Moseley)	6	Flanker	J. F. Slattery (Blackrock College)	6
J. P. Syddall (Waterloo)	4	Lock	M. I. Keane (Lansdowne)	4
M. J. Colclough (Angoulême)	5	Lock	D. G. Lenihan (University Coll. Cork)	5
P. J. Winterbottom (Headingley)	7	Flanker	J. B. O'Driscoll (London Irish)	7
J. P. Scott (Cardiff) *captain	8	No 8	W. P. Duggan (Blackrock College) *captain	8

Referee: A M Hosie (Scotland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 N C Stringer (Wasps), 17 L Cusworth (Leicester), 18 N Melville (Wasps), 19 G S Pearce (Northampton), 20 A Simpson (Sale), 21 R J Hesford (Bristol).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M T Fitzpatrick (Wanderers), 17 J L Cantrell (Blackrock College), 18 R K Kearney (Wanderers), 19 A O'Regan (University College, Cork), 20 J A Hewitt (NIFC), 21 J J Murphy (Greystones).

Old Belvedere are gone for a Burton

By Alan Gibson

London Irish 9 Old Belvedere 7

It was a carefree Irish afternoon, with nobody quite sure who was playing where. Old Belvedere are a relatively new club, founded in Dublin in 1930, and this was only the sixth time they had met London Irish.

They were ahead after two minutes when Farren, with a strong wind behind him, kicked a penalty from his own half. Ten minutes later Feeley scored a try. It was a shade lucky because just previously his wing looked as if he had put a foot into touch. The referee, after consulting the touch judge, decided that the ball had stayed in.

Old Belvedere continued to have rather the better of things but had scored no more by half-time. It was doubtful whether enough had been done with that wind.

London Irish gradually began to get on top. Meanwell missed a long penalty goal but after 20 minutes kicked an easy one. Another penalty goal by Meanwell brought the margin to a point.

I was sitting next to one of the famous old warriors of the press box, Charles Burton, who sagely said that whoever scored next would win. He was quite right. After 32 minutes O'Donnell dropped a goal and that was the end of the scoring.

I promised to put in a word for the London Irish acting captain, Beringer, because he has such a nice wife. She managed to find the key to the only telephone box in the ground, although when the man brought it he explained that "it only needed a good kick". The telephone number, I was pleased to notice, was upside down.

LONDON IRISH: D Walsh; J Bates, N Murphy, A Watkinson, C Meanwell; P O'Donnell, B Murphy; A Newberry, G Beringer, P Enevoldson, C Christopher, G McCarthy, R Travers, P Croft, W Jones.

OLD BELVEDERE: N Farren; K Killeen, M Feeley, A O'Connor, D Hargaden; J Robinson, S Lyons; T Clancy, N Kearney, M McClancy, R Waldron, J Mahony, G Beirne, D Forbes, B Hoey.

Referee: P Wakefield (London).

French set sights on Welsh record

By David Hands

It is a topsy-turvy world. France open their defence of the home international championship against Wales at Cardiff today with only seven of the players who, last season, brought them the third grand slam in their history. They face a Welsh side weighed down by comparative lack of form and the knowledge that their ground record which has stood against the other home countries and France for the last 14 years now stands in peril.

Moreover, both sides have been prepared by coaches whose future may be said to be at risk this season: John Lloyd's three year appointment, which began in December, 1979, has not produced the results to which the Welsh public have become accustomed, while Jacques Fouroux has gambled on a switch of emphasis and put his faith in the Basque backs which won France's newly-instituted Provincial Cup in December.

It has not been easy for Lloyd who has had to reassemble the pieces left over after the retirement of some of the best players in Welsh rugby history.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to imagine Wales playing anything other than a strictly limited game, their halves kicking for territorial advantage and one of Wales's leading patriots, Gravell, knocking the stuffing out any Frenchmen who come his way.

That approach also implies an effective lineout presence and so much depends on Moriarty and the new cap, Sutton, not to mention the experienced Squire at the tail. Sutton, aged 23, did not play rugby at school but began with Talywain just over four years ago, joining Pontypool after only 19 games. He was named in the national squad against the 1978 All Blacks and appeared for Wales B against the Australians earlier this season. At 6ft 5½in and 15st 12lb he is out of a very similar mould to Moriarty.

The restoration of Burgess to the back row ensures that Wales will have someone to match Rives in the chores on the floor; they will be keen to deny the French as much loose ball as possible and in that respect France will miss the injured Joinel. He was their outstanding player against New Zealand last November, an occasion when, despite the changes they have since made, the French did not suffer that badly in comparison with Mourie's All Blacks.

The French approach is not easy to forecast. Most sides, even New Zealand, might consider feeling their way in the opening quarter, but with the side they have selected, France may feel that attack from the opening whistle is required, and hope to catch the Welsh on the hop. Their new stand off, Lescarboura, aged 20, has the physical capacity to take on the Welsh back row: he is 6ft 2½in and weighs 13½st and he has the Bayonne centre pairing of Belascain and Perrier outside him.

The French forwards, however, must pass the ammunition. There was relief in their camp yesterday when their tight head prop, Paparemborde, passed a fitness test on a bruised thigh, an injury similar to that which kept Gareth Davies doubtful until Thursday. I doubt if there will be much in it at the set pieces and Rodriguez is a rapidly improving player at No. 8.

Certainly the French have the capacity to overturn Wales's proud home record—they were the last championship side to win at Cardiff, in 1968—whether they do so depends on how quickly their newcomers can adjust to the international arena and how efficiently they can eliminate the mistakes upon which Wales will be hoping to prey.

Today's teams at Cardiff

Wales			France	
G. Evans (Maesteg)	15	Full back	M. Sallefranque (Dax)	15
R. A. Ackerman (Newport)	14	Right wing	S. Blanco (Biarritz)	14
D. S. Richards (Swansea)	13	Right centre	P. Perrier (Bayonne)	13
R. W. R. Gravell (Llanelli)	12	Left centre	C. Belascain (Bayonne)	12
C. F. W. Rees (London Welsh)	11	Left wing	L. Pardo (Bayonne)	11
W. G. Davies* (Cardiff)	10	Stand-off	J-P. Lescarboura (Dax)	10
T. D. Holmes (Cardiff)	9	Scrum half	G. Martinez (Toulouse)	9
I. Stephens (Bridgend)	1	Prop	M. Cremaschi (Lourdes)	1
A. J. Phillips (Cardiff)	2	Hooker	P. Dintrans (Tarbes)	2
G. Price (Pontypool)	3	Prop	R. Paparemborde (Pau)	3
C. Burgess (Ebbw Vale)	6	Flanker	J-P. Rives* (Toulouse)	6
S. Sutton (Swansea)	4	Lock	A. Lorieux (Grenoble)	4
R. D. Moriarty (Pontypool)	5	Lock	D. Revallier (Graulhet)	5
J. R. Lewis (Cardiff)	7	Flanker	P. Lacans (Beziers)	7
J. Squire (Pontypool) *captain	8	No 8	L. Rodriguez (Mont-de-Marsan) *captain	8

Referee: D I H Burnett (Ireland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 A J Donovan (Swansea), 17 M Dacey (Swansea), 18 G Williams (Bridgend), 19 G Williams (Swansea), 20 W James (Aberavon), 21 G P Williams (Bridgend).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 B Herrero (Nice), 17 J-P Wolf (Beziers), 18 [illegible] Carpentier (Lourdes), 19 P Berbizier (Lourdes), 20 P Mesny (Grenoble), 21 S Gabernet (Toulouse).

Swimming

Unstoppable Miss Croft strikes gold twice

From Athole Still
Paris, Feb 5

England's 16-strong squad made an outstanding start to the three-day-long Arena meeting here today. Their two freestyle starters, Jackie Willmott (Southend) and June Croft (Williams Wasps), between them won three gold medals in the 800m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 50m freestyle.

"Who can stop her now?" a delighted team manager, Andy Morton shouted, as Miss Croft outstripped the field in the 50m to win the first gold medal of the meeting. The answer to Colonel Morton's question is likely to be "no one", unless it is Miss Willmott, who seems the only one likely to challenge the Wigan flyer in the 400m freestyle. Miss Croft is in the kind of form which casts an intimidating shadow over all her rivals.

The two-length dash (this is a 25m pool) seemed her most precarious prospect: the race can be lost on a hesitant start or fumbled turn. But Miss Croft won it through classic technique rather than sheer strength and improved on her own three-week-old British record by 0.13sec (25.81sec), which is a mere 0.53sec off the world record of Caren Metschuk, of East Germany.

Some 25 minutes later Miss Croft was again on the blocks for the final of the 200m freestyle and her attitude in this race demonstrated admirably the qualities which have brought her so much success recently. Her chief rival was the American, Mary Wayde. After Miss Croft had led over the first 100m (57.85sec) she was slightly headed by the American at threequarter distance.

"I couldn't sprint like I normally do at the beginning and it was beginning to hurt badly immediately after the 100", Miss Croft said afterwards. "But I decided to give myself a little breather for the next two lengths and try to find something over the final 50."

As usual, she found all that was necessary and fairly sailed away from the American over the final 20m to touch home in 1min 58.31sec, only 0.36sec outside her Commonwealth record, which she set at the beginning of last month.

Miss Willmott was also in record-breaking form, although she so dominated the 800m freestyle that it was scarcely a competitive spectacle. She was some five metres clear of the field at half-distance (4min 16.06sec), a pace which she bettered on the inward half so that she improved her own British record by a full 5sec in recording 8min 27.08sec, the fifth fastest time returned for the distance.

Miss Croft looks a certainty for the 100m freestyle. She and Miss Willmott should share the gold and silver in the 400m, which would be a unique achievement for British swimmers in an international event at this level.

Yet another British record fell in the 200m individual medley in which Robin Brew (Scotland) just outtouched Stephen Poulter (Williams Wasps) by 7/100ths of a second with a time of 2min 06.83sec, although they could finish only seventh and eighth respectively to the brilliant Russian Olympic gold medallist, Alexander Sidorenko (2min 02.17sec).

Motor racing

Ten drivers pay their FISA fines

Paris, Feb 5.—Ten formula one drivers have paid the fines imposed by FISA, the international motor sport federation, after the drivers' strike at the South African Grand Prix, according to FISA. The drivers, who are eligible to compete in the formula one world championship, are:

Nelson Piquet, Brabham (Brazil), Niki Lauda, McLaren (Austria), John Watson, McLaren (Northern Ireland), Carlos Reutemann, Williams (Argentina), Keke Rosberg, Williams (Finland), Nigel Mansell, Lotus (Britain), Elio de Angelis, Lotus (Italy), Derek Warwick, Toleman (Britain), Manfred Winkelhock, ATS (West Germany)—all of whom were fined $5,000 — and Ricardo Patrese, Brabham (Italy), who was fined $10,000.

Didier Pironi, president of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association, has called a drivers' meeting for Sunday at a secret location to discuss the latest situation.

Football

Ipswich are depleted at Anfield

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

On Boxing Day Liverpool were beaten at home by Manchester City and crawled back into twelfth place. In danger of being lapped in the championship race, Bob Paisley admits that his side were hurt by their lack of progress. "We knew we had to be *patient*," *he said*, "because it takes time for new players to settle in."

Settle in they have, to a confident stride and pattern that has taken them past other stumbling contenders. Victory against Ipswich Town at Anfield this afternoon would be their eighth this year and would put them in a place to which they are more accustomed, tucked in behind the leaders with a game in hand.

Ipswich, the previous front runners, are now hobbling. They faltered at home in the League Cup semi-final first leg in midweek against Liverpool and, missing the heart of their defence, introduce an untried central partnership of Wark and Steggles. Mills swaps roles with McCall to give them the help they will undoubtedly need and Thijssen returns to midfield.

Liverpool, unchanged, walk on alone while all of their leading rivals limp with uncertainty. Southampton, who defend their leadership at home to Manchester City, are without the suspended Holmes; Moran and Puckett are doubtful. Hartford, City's captain, is also suspended; Reid and Hutchison are out. Reeves faces a fitness test as does Bond, who has a broken nose.

Manchester United, in second place, have temporarily lost the services of Macari, who collided with Moran in training. McIlroy and McQueen. Buchan regains his place, and the captaincy, and Gidman comes back to meet his former colleagues from Aston Villa. The champions, already without the injured Shaw and the suspended Morley, have doubts about Gibson, Evans and Williams as well as their manager, Ron Saunders.

There were reports yesterday that Villa will not renew his contract in three years. It is understood that he has received two letters, one before Christmas and another this week, informing him of the club's position. The terms of his contract specify that three years notice be given. "I always wanted to spend the rest of my career at Villa", he commented. "The odds now appear to be against that."

Arsenal, whose progress has been anything but spectacular, are unchanged but they take a 17-year-old winger, Kay, back to his homeland for their 100th League match against Sunderland. He will probably be along just for the ride, though, which is more than can be said for McGuinley, a striker bought recently from the non-League club Gateshead for £3,000. He may replace the ailing Cummins.

Ian Greaves, with his new team among the backmarkers, has a simple message for his Wolverhampton Wanderers players at White Hart Lane. He keeps the side that lost against Arsenal in midweek and insists that they "play it straight. No fancy theories". He added that he will start work "properly" on Monday and does not expect any miracles from a team "shattered by internal politics".

His board may have other more ambitious ideas. So might the fresh faces in charge of Bristol City. As eight of their top professionals joined the unemployed on Wednesday, Roy Hodgson, City's caretaker manager, had a problem filling in the names on the team sheet yesterday. Four of those he selected will make their debuts against the third division's second club, Fulham, at Ashton Gate.

One of them, Bray, is only 17 and signed less than three months ago. The others are Newman, aged 18, Economou, 20, and Smith, the substitute who is 18. Mr Hodgson said: "This is not something I wanted to do for, in all honesty, they are not yet ready for League football." As the acting chairman, Les Kew, warned, if today's attendance is poor, then the days of the club as well as the four youngsters may all too soon be over.

Rangers to take chances

Time being a great healer cuts no ice with John Greig, the Rangers' manager, as the painful memory of a Scottish Cup defeat by Berwick Rangers remains as vivid as ever 15 years later, so he is anxious to avoid a repetition.

When Albion Rovers, from the lower reaches of the second division, tackle the Scottish Cup holders in a third round tie at Ibrox today, Mr Greig will demand a "thoroughly professional display".

He said: "We must win and win well. *Nothing less will do*, for although I never take games like this lightly, we have to get into the habit of making and taking chances again".

Rangers, who have appeared in the last six Scottish Cup finals, bring in teenage central defender Billy McPherson, while Gordon Dalziel makes way for top scorer John MacDonald to link up with Derek Johnstone in attack.

Rovers, whose total attendances during a season would barely fill half of Ibrox, approach the game with a philosophical "nothing ventured, nothing gained" attitude.

Their manager of only five weeks, schoolteacher Derek Whiteford, said yesterday: "It's a tremendous challenge, especially since I haven't even seen my entire playing staff in competitive action because of the freeze".

Mr Whiteford, aged 34, who retired from playing recently after 18 years with various Scottish clubs, added: "We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by having a real go at Rangers. If the players give 100 per cent commitment and learn something from the game, I'll be satisfied."

Dodgin leaves Northampton

Northampton Town, bottom of the fourth division and beaten in their last six matches, have parted company with their manager Bill Dodgin for the second time.

The club's chairman, Neville Ronson, said yesterday: "We have parted on the best of terms. We are grateful for Bill's work and he will continue to do some scouting for us."

Under Mr Dodgin, Northampton were promoted to the third division five years ago during his first spell at the *County Ground*.

England's under 21 visit Warsaw for the first leg of their European Championship quarter-final against Poland *on* March 17. The return is at West Ham on April 7. The winners will earn a semi-final against Scotland or Italy, who have yet to agree on dates for their quarter-final.

Skiing

The snow queen who has nerves of ice

From Dudley Doust
Schladming, Feb 5

There was both happy and unsettling news today at the Alpine world skiing championships. While Erika Hess was winning her third gold medal here, Franz Klammer crashed in practice on another hill and may miss tomorrow's highlight of the championships, the men's downhill race.

Miss Hess's triumph came in her speciality, the slalom. The course of 60 gates was set tight by an Italian who admitted that anyone who beat the cheerful little Swiss girl down it deserved the gold. One of his own, Maria Rosa Quario, was first away and set a target of 50.66sec.

Miss Hess followed and, at about the sixth gate she suddenly reared back, lost her impetus and clattered through a gate. The blunder must have cost her half a second, yet with astonishing grace she knitted her way through the remaining 50-odd gates to finish only 0.27sec behind the Italian. At the end of the first run, the American, Christin Cooper, was in third place, 0.31 sec behind.

Miss Hess, who is tougher than she looks, later said disdainfully: "I was not worried. Maria Rosa does not have strong nerves. She makes mistakes on the second runs." True enough, Miss Quario turned in a woolly run which left it to the Swiss girl. Accordingly, Miss Hess dashed down in an unbeatable time. "I had gone through 1,000 gates without a mistake until I ran out at Berchtesgaden two weeks ago," she said. "I was confident."

Miss Hess therefore becomes the queen of the championships, with victories in the slalom, giant slalom, and women's combined events. Miss Cooper is her lady in waiting, having come second today, second in the giant slalom, and third in the combined. The slalom bronze winner today was the Italian, Daniela Zini.

The men's combined was completed with the downhill race. Overall, the Frenchman Michel Vion won the gold, the Swiss, Peter Luescher, the silver, and the Austrian Anton Steiner, who had led after the slalom, the bronze.

Konrad Bartelski, of Britain, was a disappointing seventh in today's race and thirty-ninth overall exactly nine places behind his countryman, Nigel Smith.

At the same site, Klammer was pouring down a practice run at 60 mph, when, entering the famed Bannwaldeinfahrt section, he skidded, crossed his skis and plunged into a safety net. His damaged ribs, at first thought to be broken, were later said to be badly bruised.

WOMEN'S SLALOM: 1, E Hess (Switzerland), 1 min 41.60 sec; 2, C Cooper (US), 1:41.93; 3, D Zini (Italy), 1:41.96; 4, D Tlalka (Poland), 1:42.16; 5, M-R Quario (Italy), 1:42.17; 6, M Epple (WG), 1:43.85; 7, R Steiner (Austria), 1:43.99; 8, M Jarman (Yugoslavia), 1:44.74; 9, O Charvatova (Czechoslovakia), 1:44.74; 10, F Serrat (France), 1:44.89.

MEN'S COMBINED: 1, M Vion (France), 12.64 pts; 2, P Luescher (Switzerland), 18.08; 3, A Steiner (Austria), 20.48; 4, W Ortner (Austria), 20.69; 5, M Canac (France), 38.42; 6, O Sooril (Norway), 46.51; 7, G Dehrli (Switzerland), 59.47; 8, E Riedelsperger (Austria), 61.13; 9, B Noeckler (Italy), 61.55; 10, P Roth (WG), 62.14. British placings: 30, N Smith, 195.20; 39, K Bartelski, 240.60.

Ice skating

Omens are not happy for women's hope

From John Hennessy
Lyons, Feb 5

Deborah Cottrill, the British champion, retained third place after the women's short programme in the European ice skating championships here today. But the omens for advance in the freeskating tomorrow are not promising.

The order at the top is now Claudia Kristofics-Binder (Austria) with 1.8 points; Elena Vodorezova (Soviet Union) with 3.2; Miss Cottrill with 3.8; and menacingly, Katarina Witt (East Germany) with 4.0. Kristina Wegelius, of Finland, second in yesterday's figures, has dropped to fifth place.

The short programme took even more than its usual toll because of the difficulty of including a triple jump in the combination after a double flip (toe salchow). Only two of those who attempted it succeeded, Miss Witt and Claudia Leistner, a German surprise packet from the other side of the wall.

Miss Cottrill skated up to her potential, with a double loop in the combination, but was placed only fifth today, with Miss Witt out on her own in the lead. Her soaring double axel was the female equivalent of Robin Cousins's and she covered half a cricket pitch with her combination, the triple toe loop landed with utter certainty. Miss Witt will be a narrow favourite to win tomorrow unless Miss Kristofics-Binder can stay no more than two behind her in the free.

Miss Cottrill would almost certainly have to win the free to take the gold medal and that seems much more improbable. Karen Wood, the second British competitor, marred her performance with a stumbling double loop in the combination.

The men's championship provided an exciting evening of entertainment once one was able to banish from one's mind the artistry of John Curry and the flow of Robin Cousins. This was more a fireworks display in which triple jumps were thrown at us at the rate of almost one every half-minute.

WOMEN: Short programme: 1, Miss K Witt (EG), 0.4pt; 2, Miss E Vodorezova (USSR), 0.8; 3, Miss C Kristofics-Binder (Austria), 1.2; 4, Miss C Leistner (WG), 1.6; 5, Miss D Cottrill (GB), 2.0; 6, Miss C Paul (EG), 2.4. British placing: 12, Miss K Wood, 4.8. Standings (after two events): 1, Kristofics-Binder, 1.8pts; 2, Miss Vodorezova, 3.2; 3, Miss Cottrill, 3.8; 4, Miss Witt, 4.0; 5, Miss K Wegelius (Finland), 4.4; 6, Miss Paul, 7.2. British placing: 11, Miss Wood, 12.0.

MEN: Final: 1, N Schramm (WG), 4.2pts; 2, J-C Simond (France), 5.0; 3, I Bobrin (USSR), 6.2; 4, R Cerne (WG), 11.0; 5, A Fadeev (USSR), 11.6 (ahead on majority placings); 6, H Fischer (WG), 11.6. British placing: 16, Mark Pepperday, 32.4.

Table tennis

Small step with a funny bat

From a Special Correspondent
Nantes, Feb 5

Jill Hammersley, English national champion a record seven times, took a small step towards creating further controversy with funny bats here today. Mrs Hammersley began the defence of her European Top 12 title with a 21—19, 21—16 win over Gabriella Szabo, the Hungarian who beat her in the last 16 of the World championships three years ago. And she did it with a similar *combination* bat to the one that helped John Hilton cause the game's biggest upset by becoming European champion.

Mrs Hammersley has usually played with combination bats before but this is only the second tournament where she has tried the combination of fast rubber and dead anti-spin rubber with which Hilton caused such havoc and which has spread like wildfire among young players in England this season.

"It is the first time I have tried it out against the best players" she said. In the German Open she gained revenge over Kirsten Kruger, the player who beat her in the European Superleague. But revenge against Miss Szabo may prove to be more significant.

Potential significance will assume real proportions if Mrs Hammersley, who has had some indifferent results this season, can build on this early success to create more confidence. She moved well and defended with more variety than when she lost her English Open title last month. She also seemed to enjoy it. "I've found motivation a little difficult after being in the game for a long time" she said, "so the bat provides me with something new to aim at, which I like."

Desmond Douglas, England's other national champion, was also pleased with his start. He erased the memory of his match last year, when he let the Czech, Josef Dvoracek, come from two down to beat him. Dvoracek came from two down again but in the fifth game this time Douglas established a 9—5 lead that provided the platform to propel himself to a comfortable 21—13 success with all-out attack.

It was also a good win from a tactical viewpoint. Dvoracek, tall, erect and moustachioed, looks like a guardsman and plays like one. Once he has entrenched himself about 6ft from the table it is hard to find a way past him.

Two titles for England

Bombay, Feb 5.—England won the men's and women's team titles at the sixth Commonwealth table tennis championships in Bombay today.

The English women overwhelmed Canada, 3—1. In the men's final, Nigel Ackersley helped England beat Nigeria 5—4 by winning all his three matches. England had defeated the defending champions, Hongkong, in the men's event in a hard-fought semi-final that began last night and ended early today.

Hongkong refused to defend the title in the women's event in protest against a ruling of the chief referee on Wednesday. He accused them of using "unapproved bat rubbers" and asked them to play with paddles that have the brand name printed on them as required under International rules.

FINAL PLACINGS: Men: were: 1, England; 2, Nigeria; 3, Hongkong; 4, Canada; 5, India; 6, Pakistan; 7, Australia; 8, Scotland; 9, New Zealand; 10, Sri Lanka.

FINAL PLACINGS: Women: 1, England; 2, Canada; 3, India; 4, Nigeria; 5, Scotland; 6, Australia.

WOMEN: England 3, Canada 1 (English names first): G Knight beat G Hsu, 21—19, 21—15; A Gordon lost to M Domonkos, 18—21, 17—21; Miss Knight and J Grundy beat Hsu and Domonkos, 19—21, 21—18, 21—14; Miss Knight beat Domonkos, 21—13, 23—25. Scotland 3, Australia 1: (Scottish names first): C Dalrymple beat T K Thompson, 21—17, 21—15; L Dalrymple beat N Bsiach, 16—21, 21—5, 21—13; V Thomson beat N Bsiach, 21—14, 23—21; Miss Dalrymple and Miss Thomson lost to Bsiach and Thomson, 21—16. India 3, Nigeria 1; New Zealand 3, Sri Lanka 0.

MEN: England 5, Hongkong 4: N Eckersley beat Vong Lu Veng, 16—21, 21—17, 21—19; P Day beat Chen Schung Shien, 21—15, 21—13; K Jackson lost to Chin Man Kuen, 20—21, 7—21; P Day beat Vong Lu Veng, 22—20, 21—13; Eckersley lost to Man Kuen, 12—21, 17—21; Jackson lost to Chen Scheng Shien, 17—21, 21—19, 11—21; Day beat Chin Man Kuen, 19—21, 21—17, 21—18; Jackson lost to Von Lu Veng, 11—21, 13—21; Eckersley beat Chen Scheng Shien, 21—11, 21—13. Australia 5, Scotland 3 (Australian names first): G Thomas beat R Yule, 20—22, 21—15, 21—7; R Tuckett beat D Hannah, 21—13, 14—21, 21—13; G Haberlat lost to K Rodger, 21—17, 11—21, 19—21; R Tuckett beat R Yule, 21—15, 21—15; G Thomas lost to K Rodger, 18—21, 14—21; G Haberlat beat D Hannah, 21—18, 16—21, 22—20; R Tuckett lost to K Rodger, 21—15, 12—21, 14—21; G Haberlat beat R Yule, 21—14, 21—11. Hongkong 5, Canada 0; India 5, Pakistan 4; New Zealand 5, Sri Lanka 1.—Agencies.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Crans-Montana	120	220	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-2
Good skiing conditions							
Davos	140	250	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-1
Perfect skiing everywhere							
Flaine	160	470	Good	Crust	Fair	Fine	4
Slush on south-facing slopes							
Kitzbühel	90	190	Good	Heavy	Icy	Fine	6
Upper slopes excellent							
St Moritz	80	140	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-2
Good skiing on piste							
Sauze d'Oulx	30	75	Good	Crust	Worn	Fine	-1
Excellent skiing on upper slopes							
Verbier	75	235	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	3
Excellent skiing on piste							
Wengen	60	150	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	1
Upper slopes excellent							
Wildschonau	120	230	Icy	Varied	Fair	Fine	2
Icy patches on all runs							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following tourist board report has been received:

NORWAY	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
Finse	130		Good		-12
Geilo	80		Good		-9
Lillehammer	120		Powdr		-7
Norefjell	100		Good		-4
Oslo	80		Good		-15
Voss	150		Good		+3

For the record

Yesterday's results

RUGBY UNION: London Irish 9, Old Belvedere 7; South Wales Police 15, French Police 35.

Tennis

KING'S CUP: First division: relegation play-off, first leg: Netherlands 0, Austria 3. Second division: promotion play-off: Ireland 3, Belgium 0.

DETROIT: Women's tournament (US unless stated): third round: A Jaeger beat W White, 6—2, 6—1; W Turnbull (Australia) beat M (Peanut) Louie, 6—1, 6—3; D Fromholtz (Australia) beat A Kiyomura, 6—0, 1—6, 7—5.

TORONTO: Molson challenge: round robin (US unless stated): J McEnroe beat V Gerulaitis, 7—6, 7—3; I Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat J Connors, 6—4, 6—3; R Tanner beat A Panatta (Italy), 6—3, 7—5.

Badminton

DUBLIN: International: Ireland 0, England B 5.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Indiana Pacers 131, Denver Nuggets 114; San Antonio Spurs 118, Phoenix Suns 112.

Snooker

BATLEY: International Masters tournament, qualifying rounds: A Higgins (Belfast) beat A Meo (Holborn), 3—1 (Higgins first: 89—69, 86—27, 69—49); Meo beat J Meadowcroft (Bacup) 2—0 (127—8, 76—17); Meadowcroft beat M Watterson (Chesterfield) 3—2.

Golf

Pate's moment of glory

From John Ballantine
Monterey, Feb 5.

Jerry Pate achieved a hole in one today at one of the most famous par threes in golf. It was one of those unforgettable moments in golf. Like seeing Tom Watson hit his seven iron approach 2ft from the last hole at Turnberry in 1977 to pluck the Open title from under Jack Nicklaus's nose. Or like watching Nicklaus's "tramliner" putt curl 40ft into the hole at the 16th at Augusta in 1975 to win the United States Masters.

Pate, the 1976 United States Open champion, did not feel particularly elated standing yesterday on the tee of the most celebrated and dangerous short hole in golf, the 16th at Cypress Point. He had gone out in 39 and was heading apparently for 76 or 77.

But this hole never fails to lift the heart and spirits of the true golfer. Yesterday it looked particularly beautiful, bathed in translucent sunshine; the tee juts out over the Pacific across 220 yards of blue water to the first sight of land, 100ft high sandstone cliff at the front of the green, 233 yards away on its little promontory. Only three times before had it been "aced". A hole-in-one was achieved in 1947 by the late Bing Crosby, who lent his name to this tournament.

"I checked the wind with bits of grass, took a one-iron and decided to play the shot about 4ft to 6ft right of the flag and let the crosswind swing it back a bit", Pate said later.

The ball arced over the gulf of water and sky. The large crowd sitting behind the tee in a natural amphitheatre of sand, iceplant and cypresses, started to murmur as it zoned in on the flag.

They began shouting and many sprang to their feet as the ball pitched five feet short on the slightly shelving green and rolled straight for the cup. "Go in," Pate shouted. It did.

Bruce Lietzke, Pate's brother-in-law, used the yellow ball to score 66 at Pebble Beach and share the first round lead in the forty-first Crosby Pro-Am with Forrest Fezler.

PEBBLE BEACH (California): Crosby pro-am: first round: 66: B Lietzke; F Fezler. 67: G Burns; M Lye. 69: S Simpson; J Nicklaus; T Watson; B Crenshaw; C Beck. 70: G Littler; T. Ozaki (Japan); R Caril; M Hatalsky; J Mitchell; D Eichelberger. British scores: 75: N Faldo. 76: P Oosterhuis.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH: LPGA Elizabeth Arden Classic: First round (US unless stated): 68, B King; 69, P Sheehan, D Wood, H Stacy, J Blalock, B Pearson, D Caponi, S Little (SA).

Racing

Take Bregawn to stay one step ahead of handicapper

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Bregawn is the logical selection to win the Freshfields Holidays Handicap steeplechase at Kempton Park this afternoon. Only if Michael Dickinson's much improved eight-year-old looks a trifle stale in the paddock beforehand, after two races in the last fortnight, would it be wise to reassess the situation. In that instance I would turn to Night Nurse.

Dickinson clearly believes that Bregawn is alright, otherwise he would not have sent him on the long journey from Yorkshire. Against that backcloth, it is only sensible to strike again with Bregawn while the iron is still hot and before the handicapper has had the time to take his victories at Haydock Park and Doncaster into account.

Just the briefest of glances through this week's racing calendar will show that Bregawn had already gone up the ladder 10 lb for winning at Haydock Park alone. Those races are in the future though, and as far as today's race is concerned he escapes a penalty of any kind. Since then he has also won the Great Yorkshire Steeplechase at Doncaster.

When Bregawn won the Peter Marsh Steeplechase at Haydock he beat Night Nurse by 5 lengths. He was receiving 19 lb from Night Nurse then. Today the difference between the two is 20 lb.

Earlier in the season, Night Nurse gave Lesley Ann 10 lb and a four lengths beating in the Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury. Although David Elsworth's mare will be receiving an additional 2 lb from Night Nurse this afternoon, it should not be enough to affect the issue around a course as sharp as Kempton.

Lesley Ann is in her element at somewhere like Cheltenham, where she won the Sun Alliance Steeplechase last March and the Tote Double Steeplechase a week ago.

At his best, Border Incident would be a very tough nut to crack with only 10st. 10lb. However, his trainer, Richard Head, was quick to point out yesterday that his old favourite has not had a race since November. "In the circumstances," he said, "I am certain that he will be all the better for the run."

As Royal Judgement's last outing was way back in October, it is only reasonable to expect him, too, to be caught out by lack of fitness, especially when pitted against the likes of Bregawn, Nightnurse and Lesley Ann who must be as hard as nails after their recent activity.

Henry Kissinger beat Dramatist over two and a half miles at Kempton a fortnight ago. In his case, the doubt is whether he will last three miles. He ran indifferently on the only occasion he was tried over that distance last season. There must be a bit of a doubt, too, about Saint Fillans' ability to stay, because he is such a tearaway.

However, an abundance of stamina is one thing that the Queen Mother's runner, Special Cargo, does not lack. He won over three miles and five furlongs at Sandown last spring, and he would have won his last race in a bog at Lingfield had he not fallen at the last fence. Special Cargo was beaten ten lengths by Lesley Ann at Cheltenham last March and I doubt whether the 8 lb that he will receive from her this afternoon will be sufficient for him to close the gap

Like Lesley Ann, Lacson has also won the Sun Alliance Steeplechase but unlike her, he missed the whole of last season because of injury.

No matter how Lesley Ann fares, her trainer should, at least, have the satisfaction of winning the Otley Hurdle with Heighlin, who has a gilt-edged opportunity to atone for his slightly disappointing performance at Cheltenham.

For those with one eye cocked on next Saturday's Schweppes Gold Trophy, it will be interesting to see Donegal Prince and Homeson run against Heighlin, on infinitely worse terms than they will at Newbury.

Walnut Wonder, another Schweppes entry, is one of those to watch in the Spring Handicap Hurdle, which may be won by Kilbrittain Castle.

While conceding that Golden Vow has the beating of Sea Image on form — Golden Vow gave Sea Image 4lb and beat him by three lengths at Wincanton in November — Fred Winter told me yesterday that today is the right moment for his horse to renew rivalry in the valuable Scilly Isles Novices Steeplechase because Sea Image is fit and well after a recent morale-boosting victory at Fontwell, whereas Golden Vow has not run in the meantime.

Winter said that his Champion Hurdle hope, that enigmatic character Derring Rose, is currently enjoying — at least, he hopes he is enjoying — a spell of hunting in the capable hands of John Francome's brother-in-law, the show jumping rider Derek Ricketts. "It may be the most bizarre preparation for the Champion Hurdle, of all races, yet it may also may be just the thing to sweeten him," Winter said.

Derring Rose has all the ability in the world, the brilliance to win a race at the National Hunt Festival last year by 30 lengths, yet a mind of his own that is so bizarre that he is good enough to take on all comers and thrash them one day yet refuse point blank to race the next.

Al Kuwait, Winter's winner of the first division of the February Novices Hurdle at Kempton yesterday, is also Cheltenham bound. This was his first race under National Hunt rules and it augurs well.

☐ Even Melody gained the 23rd win of his career in the Rutherford Handicap Steeplechase at Kelso yesterday, Press Association reports. Colin Hawkins took the 13-year-old to the front at halfway, and they fought off a determined challenge from Dusky Duke on the run-in to win by a length and a half.

Neville Crump, who has always trained Even Melody, said: "He's a lovely old horse. In the old days he would have carried 12st 7lb, never mind 11st 2lb, and beaten this lot, but he's getting on a bit now."

Durham Lad, and Anthony Webber, land safely over the last fence on their way to victory in the Park Chase.

Political Pop heads strong Wetherby raid

By Michael Seely

It is impossible to keep Michael Dickinson's name out of the headlines at present. This afternoon, at Kempton, Bregawn will be out to land his third big prize on consecutive Saturdays. And at his local track, at Wetherby, the Yorkshire trainer has an outstanding chance or landing a treble with Political Pop, Rathgorman and Tommy Joe.

Political Pop runs in the Selby Handicap Steeplechase. This improving eight-year-old has not been seen in public since finishing second to Diamond Edge in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury back in November. That was a first-class performance as after a long battle on the run in, Diamond Edge only prevailed by half a length. Shady Deal, who finished fourth that afternoon, and Sunset Cristo appeared the only dangers.

Rathgorman will be out to record his fifth victory over Weatherby's two miles in the Garforth Handicap Steeplechase. Rathgorman is almost unbeatable on his day, and seems to find the long straight of the Yorkshire track to his liking. Why So the 10-length conqueror of the Irish Grand National hope. Carrow Boy at Ayr, could pose a threat in receipt of so much weight.

The finish of the Foxhunter's Chase should be fought out between Tommy Joe and Cheekio Ora. These are useful horses, in this kind of company, and will be ridden by two fine jockeys in David Browne and Peter Greenall, the former champion amateur. Cheekio Ora won this race last year and is said to be much fancied to give a repeat performance, but in receipt of 9 lbs, Tommy Joe must be a firm selection.

Stratford-on-Avon's feature is the Big Razor Handicap hurdle. Galway Blaze is a progressive young stayer who has won his only two races this season for Jimmy Fitzgerald. Frasass, who was only caught close home by Tall Order at Newcastle, will be more at home round Stratford's sharp bends and is sure to make a bold bid to take the trophy home to Peter Easterby's stable. However, I shall take a chance with another raider from Yorkshire, Reggie Driffield.

Aintree to have independent survey

By Michael Seely

Bill Davies is still asking £8 million for Aintree racecourse, the home of the Grand National. After a two-hour meeting with Lord Plummer, the chairman of the Horse Race Betting Levy Board in Holborn yesterday, Mr Davies agreed to an independent survey being carried out. "The £8 million is not negotiable. The development value of the 260-acre site is around £15 million."

For once the publicity-shy figure of Mr Davies emerged from its shell as the chairman of the Walton Property group issued a statement. Ladbroke's seven-year contract expires on April 3 and unless agreement can be reached there will be no more Grand Nationals.

Mr Davies said: "We have had a good discussion this morning and my main aim is to keep the Grand National on a permanent basis. I believe that the Levy Board should run it and that we should stop this on-off situation which we have had for a number of years. Since 1961 the Government have received approximately £150m out of Aintree and the Levy Board approximately £15m. During my time, and Mrs Topham's, neither of these bodies have put a penny back." He then said that his small company have borne the burden of owning Aintree for the benefit and pleasure of all concerned.

Mr Davies then spelt out his version of the facts and figures involved. He said that his purchase price of £3¼m, plus fees incurred when he acquired the track in 1973-74, was now valued at £9.9 million. So even at his present asking price of £8 million, Mr Davies reckons his firm would be out of pocket.

Lord Plummer was non-committal in his comments. "Mr Davies has given the Levy Board permission to carry out an independent survey. Further talks will be held as soon as this has been done. I believe that the details of the further conversations should be kept confidential".

It is good to hear that the lines of communication are still open, but it is impossible not to think that Mr Davies is being rather unrealistic.

STATE OF GOING (official) Wetherby: Good to soft. Stratford: Soft. Kempton: Good to soft. Monday: Fontwell: Soft. Wolverhampton: Chase good to firm, hurdles, good.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS all Eng (dead): Sledgehammer, Back's Bow, True Wish, Not Many, Hand of God, Rame, Arminius.

Kempton Park programme

Tote double: 2.30 and 3.30. Treble: 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0

[Television (ITV): 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]

1.30 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,842: 2m) (13)

102 1130-00 HIGH OLD TIME (CD) (Dickins Ltd) S Mellor 6-11-7 ... P Blacker
104 312240 HEVER (DB) (Mrs P Fasey) M Pipe 7-11-6 ... P Leach
105 40400-0 WALNUT WONDER (D) (F Hunt) D Elsworth 7-11-3 ... C Brown
106 1100-33 KILBRITTAIN CASTLE (D) (W Whitbread) F Walwyn 6-11-2 ... W Smith
108 242043 FRANCISCUS (D) (J Marshall) A Jarvis 5-10-13 ... J J O'Neill
113 0-00101 HOLEMOOR STAR (D) (Mrs P Blackburn) Miss S Morris 5-10-9 (5 ex) ... M O'Halloran
115 4411-34 TEA-POT (CD) (Mrs M Rae Smith) M Blanshard 6-10-7 ... B de Haan
117 0/ TWO AZURE (M Motley) P Bailey 7-10-5 ... M Harrington 4
118 00033p- FRENCH CHARISMA (D) (H Sughayer) G Kindersley 6-10-2 ... Steve Knight
120 10u430- SLIM BOY (Mrs C Williams) M Haynes 5-10-0 ... A Wright 7
122 010430- ROYAL CASINO (CD) (S Reiter) I Wardle 5-10-0 ... M Williams
123 3124 MONZA (CD) (J Fenwick) P Cundell 4-10-0 ... R Strong 7
124 /02201- THE STIRRER (D) (Mrs T Mullins) S Pattemore 6-10-0 ... K Mooney

11-4 Walnut Wonder, 9-2 Kilbrittain Castle, 11-2 Tea-Pot, 6 Franciscus, 8 Holemoor Star, 10 Monza, 12 High Old Time, 14 Hever, 16 others.

2.0 ELMBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £4,510: 2½m) (8)

201 104-212 DRAMATIST (CD) (L Thwaites) F Walwyn 11-11-11 ... W Smith
202 133-44f STOPPED (CD) (T Ludlow) F Winter 01-11-11 ... B de Haan
204 2/p0f3 KING WEASEL (D) (Mrs D Grand) M H Easterby 10-11-4 ... J O'Neill
205 4-101fu TSURU (D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) L Kennard 11-10-11 ... J Francome
206 421/10- SNOW FLYER (D) (Mrs E Boucher) J Gifford 11-10-5 ... R Rowe
207 421132 RELDIS (Haunch Lane Stores) D Gandolfo 8-10-0 ... P Barton
208 01220p1 SPARTAN MAJOR (B) (Mrs W Sykes) Mrs W sykes 8-10-0 ... C Brown
210 21f213 LUCKY CALL (D) (B Brooks) D Nicholson 8-10-0 ... S Smith Eccles

5-2 Dramatist, 9-2 Spartan Major, 6 King Weasel, 13-2 Stopped, 7 Tsuru, 8 Lucky Call, 12 Reldis, 20 Snow Flyer.

2.30 FRESHFIELDS HOLIDAYS CHASE (Limited Handicap: £13,727: 3m) (9 runners)

301 2-01312 NIGHT NURSE (R Spencer) M H Easterby 11-11-13 ... J J O'Neill
302 11-0f31 LESLEY ANN (D) (B Gaule) D Elsworth 8-11-1 ... C Brown
303 11320-1 ROYAL JUDGEMENT (CD) (Lady Rootes) J Gifford 9-10-12 ... R Rowe
304 f/21p-2 BORDER INCIDENT (CD) (A Warrender) R Head 12-10-10 ... J Francome
305 0-31331 HENRY KISSINGER (C) (J Mansworth) D Gandolfo 8-10-10 ... P Barton
307 u01110/ LACSON (D) (R Hawker) R Hawker 10-10-7 ... Steve Knight
309 3131-4f SPECIAL CARGO (Queen Mother) F Walwyn 9-10-7 ... W Smith
311 1f1-111 BREGAWN (D) (M Kennelly) M W Dickinson 8-10-7 ... R Earnshaw
312 11-11f1 SAINT FILLANS (R Wilson) M Camacho 8-10-7 ... S Smith Eccles

5-2 Bregawn, 3 Night Nurse, 5 Lesley Ann, 6 Border Incident, 7 Henry Kissinger, 12 Royal Judgement, Special Cargo, 14 Saint Fillans, 33 Lacson.

3.0 SCILLY ISLES CHASE (Novices: £7,032: 2m) (8 runners)

401 000-111 GOLDEN VOW (D) (R Dowsett) R Hartop 8-11-8 ... M Floyd
402 3-14221 SEA IMAGE (D) (Mrs O Jackson) F Winter 7-11-8 ... J Francome
404 004000 GO GAILY (B) (F A Smith) F A Smith 7-11-3 ... C Mann
405 20p2/21 PAPER RICH (G Tanner) G Blum 9-11-3 ... S Smith Eccles
406 0-0b21f PAY FREEZE (D) (H Joel) R Turnell 8-11-3 ... A Turnell
407 /000-03 RIGHTEOUS FURY (F Gray) F Gray 8-11-3 ... R Rowell
409 20-1213 RUSTHALL (D) (M Kimmins) F Walwyn 9-11-3 ... K Mooney
410 000-321 SULIMNOS (D) (C House) C House 7-11-3 ... B de Haan

6-4 Golden Vow, 7-2 Rusthall, 4 Sea Image, 7 Pay Freeze, 10 Sulimnos, 16 others.

3.30 OTELEY HURDLE (£5,462: 2m) (8)

501 0-04200 BIRDS NEST (CD) (I Scott) R Turnell 12-11-9 ... Steve Knight
503 /1114-0 DONEGAL PRINCE (D) (J McGonagle) P Kelleway 6-11-4 ... W Smith
504 30-f122 HEIGHLIN (D) (J Burr) D Elsworth 6-11-4 ... S Jobar
506 321002- HOMESON (D) (P Hopkins) J Gifford 5-11-4 ... R Rowe
507 d12110 MIGRATOR (CD) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) L Kennard 6-11-4 ... J Francome
508 411110 MR MOONRAKER (CD) (Mrs P Blackburn) Miss S Morris 5-11-4 ... M O'Halloran
510 130/2-p ESPARTO (D) (G Ward) M McCourt 7-10-11 ... G McCourt
511 10/02f- SECRET BALLOT (CD) (H Joel) R Turnell 8-10-11 ... A Turnell

4-7 Heighlin, 6 Migrator, 8 Birds Nest, 10 Donegal Prince, 12 Mr Moonraker, Secret Ballot, 16 others.

4.0 RIPLEY HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £1,545: 2m) (22 runners)

604 2002 ABO ACE (Mrs J Lawrence) M Ryan 10-10 ... J McLaughlin 4
605 AIRSTREAM (Mrs C Bennett) D Arbuthnot 10-10 ... K Mooney
606 AKRAM (Mrs S Pattemore) S Pattemore 10-10 ... —
607 0 ALABAMA (A Heath) D A Wilson 10-10 ... M Coyle 4
609 004 BANKNOTE (Mrs P Blackburn) Miss S Morris 10-10 ... M O'Halloran
610 p BARTRA (F Hill) M Masson 10-10 ... J Suthern
612 43 CARVED OPAL (Mrs G Abecassis) F Winter 10-10 ... J Francome
613 40 CITY LINK STAR (City Link Transport) D A Wilson 10-10 ... K Caplan 7
615 0 DOLLYMIXTURE BOY (A Baker Hyde Ltd) R Armstrong 10-10 ... —
616 0 FABULOUS DUNCE (Outlook Metal Supplies) A Pitt 10-10 ... R Berry 4
618 0 FRANK BERRY (Mrs V Lewis) V Soane 10-10 ... V Soane
619 GEARYS STEEL STOCK (A Cheverall) D Henley 10-10 ... C Brown
623 KINGS PARADE (M Ritzenberg) G Thorner 10-10 ... P Barton
626 ONLY A SHANTY (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) L Kennard 10-10 ... J O'Neill
628 up PRICE COMMISSION (Mrs F Ashling) I Wardle 10-10 ... M Williams
629 003 RAY CHARLES (C R Barron Ltd) D Nicholson 10-10 ... S Smith-Eccles
630 30 REKAL (Capt M Lemos) R Smyth 10-10 ... R G Hughes
631 40 RHEINGOLD'S GIFT (Wheatley Leisurep) M Pipe 10-10 ... P Leach
633 00 SETTIMINO (Baroness H Thyssen) R Houghton 10-10 ... G McCourt
634 00 SO BRAVE (S Tindall) S Mellor 10-10 ... S Jobar
636 04 STANDON ROCK (R Whalley) P Kelleway 10-10 ... W Smith
644 WYKE (K Wheldon) J King 10-10 ... Knight

9-4 So Brave, 3 Carved Opal, 11-2 Abo Ace, 8 Ray Charles, 10 Standon Rock, 12 Dollymixture Boy, Rekal, 14 Akram, 16 Banknote, 20 others.

Kempton Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.30 Kilbrittain Castle, 2.0 Dramatist, 2.30 Bregawn, 3.0 Sea Image, 3.30 Heighlin, 4.0 Carved Opal.

Wetherby programme

[Television: (BBC1): 1.0 1.30 and 2.0 races]

1.0 PHILIP CORNES HURDLE (novices: £1,658: 3m) (25 runners)

1 060-132 CAPPING (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 7-11-8 ... C Pimlott
2 12016 SPIDER'S WELL (D O'Byrne) J Gifford 6-11-8 ... —
3 131100 STRIDER BROWN (A Wylie) C Bell 6-11-8 ... P Tuck
4 p-03112 DROMOLAND HILL (R Brickworth) D Gandolfo 7-11-5 ... M Richards 7
6 0010 STARLIGHT ROCKY (Miss Z Green) Miss Z Green 6-11-5 ... Mr L Hudson 4
7 4-01004 SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (E Stockdale) A Smith 6-11-5 ... J A Harris 4
9 342-221 FIND THE SUN (C Gray) C Gray 5-11-4 ... M Hancock 4
10 420-121 MASTERPLAN (Mrs G Davies) Mrs W Sykes 5-11-4 ... R Barry
11 0513 RIGHTHAND MAN (Mrs M Haggas) M W Dickinson 5-11-1 ... G Bradley
13 f0f00- ARAGEN (R Proudfoot) G Lockerbie 6-11-0 ... —
14 3 BENTLEY SPRINGS (N Granata) S Norton 8-11-0 ... G Graham
15 0r-000p BLA-MARKIES DREAM (K Chambers) M Reddan 6-11-0 ... P Murphy 4
16 000000 CONRACK (B Otter) W A Stephenson 6-11-0 ... R Lamb
17 000-40 COVETTE (L Feather) J Fitzgerald 6-11-0 ... R Forsyth
20 000/0 GULF JET (R Woodhouse) R Woodhouse 8-11-0 ... —
23 01404 KING APPOLLO (P Picizer) G Fairbairn 6-11-0 ... N Doughty
27 0p3 PELARO (ICS (Southern) Ltd) A Jarvis 6-11-0 ... —
28 0/u-0 ROSA'S FOLLY (C Burton) Miss L Siddal 9-11-0 ... Miss S Williamson
29 0 SACRED HAL (Mrs O Fowler) J Fowler 6-11-0 ... Mr A Fowler 4
30 00pf4/0 SIRENE RIVER (W J Smith) W J Smith 8-11-0 ... K Williams 4
32 0-00000 TABULATED (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 6-11-0 ... Mr E McIntyre 4
33 00/00-0 TULLYARD (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 6-11-0 ... D Goulding
34 000-000 VICTORY MORN (J Dixon) J Dixon 6-11-0 ... Mr B Storey 7
35 p0/ VOLCANIC STAR (N Waggott) N Waggott 6-11-0 ... Mr N Waggott 7
41 00 LE FORT (M J Holley Ltd) B Wilkinson 5-10-10 ... D Wilkinson

2 Spiders Well, 11-4 Masterplan, 9-2 Dromoland Hill, 11-2 Capping, 8 Find The Sun.

1.30 SELBY CHASE (Handicap: £4,908: 3m 100yds) (11)

1 30-4234 SUNSET CRISTO (CD) (Miss C Hawkey) R Hawkey 8-11-10 ... R Barry
5 1113-22 POLITICAL POP (CD) (Mrs A Starkie) M W Dickinson 8-11-4 ... G Bradley
7 u123p3- SILENT VALLEY (CD) (J Walby) I Jordon 9-11-1 ... Mr T G Dun
9 41-2404 SHADY DEAL (G Hubbard) J Gifford 9-10-8 ... —
10 231110 FORTINA'S EXPRESS (CD) (Mrs M Britton) W A Stephenson 8-10-8 ... R Lamb
11 1/21-p4p SALKELD (E Bell) N Crump 10-10-7 ... D Atkins
13 1ff1-pp CANTON (CD) (S Lycett Green) N Crump 8-10-6 ... C Hawkins
14 00-4000 KELSO CHANT (CD) (Mrs M Richardson) (B Wilkinson) 10-10-6 ... S Charlton
16 11f-32 INDECISION (T Strongs) M H Easterby 8-10-4 ... D Dutton 4
17 2df-p0f WHIGGIE GEO (CD (A Sanderson) Miss J Sanderson 10-10-4 ... Mr N Tutty 7
18 4-20324 BOBJOB (J Brockbank) J Brockbank 9-10-3 ... J L Goulding

11-8 Political Pop, 2 Sunset Cristo, 9-2 Silent Valley, 8 Shady Deal, 12 Indecision,

2.0 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (5-y-o: £1,808: 2m) (19)

1 241 ALTEN GLAZED (D) (J Widdall) M Naughton 11-6 ... Mr T G Dun
2 0-12441 RAG DANCER (D) (Mrs M Fletcher) W Elsey 11-6 ... A Flint
3 414202 POUNENTES (DB) (W McGhie) G Richards 11-3 ... R Barry
5 COLD SNAP (Lt-Col R Warden) M H Easterby 11-0 ... Mr T Easterby
6 COOL DECISION (C Platts) Miss S Hall 11-0 ... D Goulding
7 FEELINGS (B) (J Hanson) J Hanson 11-0 ... J Armstrong
8 0-22210 HOT PRETENCE (D) (D Hodgson) J S Wilson 11-0 ... A Stringer 4
9 00 JONDALE (S Tennant) A Smith 11-0 ... J A Harris 4
10 4000-0 JUBILEE LIGHTS (Mrs D Waller) J Townson 11-0 ... —
12 300 MARK EDELSON (T Caldwell) J Jefferson 11-0 ... N Doughty
13 000-3- MISS DIAWARD (Mrs G Bielby) Miss S Hall 11-0 ... G Holmes
14 320100 POWDER HORN (D) (J Barr) Mrs J Barr 11-0 ... Mrs A Gray 4
15 000300 PRETTY LASS (R Mason) R Woodhouse 11-0 ... —
16 0 RHEINEKEN (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 11-0 ... —
17 04b4-23 ROSIE'S SECRET (T Frame) A Smith 11-0 ... —
18 10 RYE MOSS (J Murdoch) J Fitzgerald 11-0 ... P Tuck
20 340130 SEA MERCHANT (D) (T McDonagh Civ Eng) W A Stephenson 11-0 ... R Lamb
21 0 SINGALONG SAM (D Abdale) F Watson 11-0 ... G Bradley
22 00 STARFINDER (B Murphy) M Camacho 11-0 ... M Barnes

5-2 Rag Dancer, 7-2 Pounentes, 4 Alten Glazed, 11-2 Sea Merchant, 8 Hot Pretence, 8 Miss Diaward, 10 others

2.30 FOXHUNTERS CHASE (£1,297: 2½m 100yd) (14)

2 311120- CHEEKIO ORA (CD) (H Parry) H Parry 9-12-0 ... Mr P Greenall
5 12/434- BIG CHARLES (F Brettell) F Brettell 9-11-9 ... —
6 p0- CALDWELL CASE (R Swiers) R Swiers 7-11-9 ... Mr S Swiers 7
8 u40000/ EBORNEEZERSDOUBLE (CD) (Miss J Thompson) Miss J Thompson 13-11-9 ... Mr D Kinsella 7
9 340/34- FRENCH PIN (Mrs G Bartle) Mrs G Bartle 11-11-9 ... —
10 p01113/ GINTOP (Mrs J Turner) Mrs J Turner 11-11-9 ... —
11 0- MELODIC LAD (C Peckitt) C Peckitt 7-11-9 ... Mr J Peckitt 7
13 03f2up- PRINCE KEEL (J Wade) J Wade 11-11-9 ... Mr J Wade 7
14 0p/ ROJAN (W McGhie) W McGhie 8-11-9 ... Mr R Magee 7
15 00000- SAUCY (Mrs J Brockbank) J Brockbank 7-11-9 ... Mr T Brockbank 7
16 10- SHRADEN COMET (W Everall) W Everall 9-11-9 ... Mr S Brookshaw 7
17 f4f/0u- SILVER VALLEY (Miss M Watson) Miss M Watson 9-11-9 ... Miss M Watson 7
18 f1f- SOLAR BEE (W Reed) W Reed 7-11-9 ... Mr T Reed 7
19 330-012 TOMMY JOE (M Goddard) M W Dickinson 12-11-9 ... Mr D Browne 4

4-6 Tommy Joe, 3 Cheekio Ora, 8 Big Charles, 10 Solar Bee, 14 French Pin, 20 others.

3.0 GARFORTH CHASE (Handicap: £2,718: 2m 50yd) (4)

1 104-311 RATHGORMAN (CD) (J Lilley) M W Dickinson 8-11-12 ... K Whyte
2 021123 DIRECT LINE (C) (B Otter) W A Stephenson 8-11-4 ... R Lamb
5 404041 WHY SO (CD) (F Soudavar) G Richards 9-10-0 (5ex) ... N Doughty
6 242121 ICE PLANT (Lady Cadogan) N Crump 10-10-0 (5ex) ... C Hawkins

5-4 Rathgorman, 9-4 Direct Line, 4 Ice Plant, 5 Why So.

3.30 ACOMB HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m) (25)

2 000/0 BARLEY MOSS (M Reddan) M Reddan 8-11-4 ... P Murphy 7
5 4 BLINDER (G Stock) R Whitaker 7-11-4 ... A McGlynn 7
6 0p-0 FRAZER'S FRIEND (C Brown) J Kettlewell 5-11-4 ... S Kettlewell 7
7 0/4240- GRAF METTERNICH (Mrs G Bielby) Miss S Hall 7-11-4 ... D Goulding
8 000 JANES JET (G Bulmer) G Harman 5-11-4 ... P Harman 7
11 043 LINGDALE (A Lewis) W Elsey 5-11-4 ... A Flint
12 MELODY MOON (D Curr) Denys Smith 7-11-4 ... C Pimlott
15 40 PARIALOS (Mrs M Jarvis) A Jarvis 5-11-4 ... —
18 0u0f/0 SAUCY WENCH (W Hardy) W Hardy 8-11-4 ... —
19 00f/po SENSING (W Hogg) M Naughton 6-11-4 ... J Allen
20 SPARKLING BARRON (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 5-11-4 ... Mr N Waggott 7
21 000-00 SWEET AS A NUT (Major P Bailey) J Wilson 6-11-4 ... DOUBTFUL
22 W SIX TIMES (J Mewies) M W Dickinson 5-11-4 ... G Bradley
24 40120 TORREMODO (D) (Mrs I Anderton) A W Jones 4-10-11 ... —
27 0 BADSWORTH GIRL (G Toft) G Toft 4-10-4 ... K Whyte
28 330 CREATIVE STAR (P Cooper) J Fitzgerald 4-10-4 ... P Tuck
29 EDDIE THE SNAKE (Mrs U Fantasia) G Lockerbie 4-10-4 ... —
31 3 GRAY HEAT (W Gray) W Haigh 4-10-4 ... R Lamb
34 0 HOTWAVE (W Barker) Miss S Hall 4-10-4 ... G Holmes
35 3d IMMORAL (G Turnbull) M Camacho 4-10-4 ... M Barnes
36 0 KINGSLEY HOUSE (A Robinson) Mrs M Nesbitt 4-10-4 ... C Fairhurst
37 p MISS NINIAN (W Goodson) C Pinkham 4-10-4 ... D Lancaster 7
38 MUNSTER GLEN (Mrs M Shawcross) R Fisher 4-10-4 ... J Errington 4
40 00 REGAL TOUCH (W Steels) M H Easterby 4-10-4 ... Mr T Easterby
43 p0 THE ASPEL (D Chapman) D Chapman 4-10-4 ... Mr T Walford

3 Regal Touch, 4 Torremodo, 5 Gray Hat, 11-2 Immoral, 7 Lingdale, 10 Blinder, 14 Creative Star, 16 W Six Times.

4.0 ACOMB HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2m) (25)

1 40 BAVAL (Miss R Slicer) D Yeoman 5-11-4 ... —
3 000-402 BIG BRYMA (R Mason) R Woodhouse 6-11-4 ... P Tuck
4 03413f BOLD ILLUSION (CD) (W Donohue) A W Jones 4-11-4 ... Miss D Jones 7
6 EL DON VELGO (M M Richardson) B Wilkinson 5-11-4 ... D Wilkinson
11 KEYSTONE KING (Wilkins & Wilkinson Ltd) S Wiles 6-11-4 ... G Graham
13 0 MASTER'S BOY (E Collingwood-Cameron) W A Stephenson 7-11-4 ... R Lamb
14 000-20 MASTER SEAL (A Dickinson) M W Dickinson 6-11-4 ... G Bradley
21 1 WILD LONE (Mrs D McGillicuddy) N Crump 6-11-4 ... C Hawkins
22 0 WISE MAN (R Thompson) R Thompson 6-11-4 ... G Holmes
26 03f000 BUT BEAUTIFUL (B) (Miss J Collins) C Pinkham 4-10-4 ... D Lancaster 4
27 b3 CHRISTMAS COTTAGE (Mrs P Mason) J Mason 4-104 ... S Charlton
29 000 DEEP DIG (J Pickavance) Mrs N Nesbitt 4-10-4 ... C Fairhurst
30 0 EDITOR (R Spencer) M H Easterby 4-10-4 ... Mr T Easterby
31 0000 FRAGRANT MADAM (T Littleton) T Barnes 4-10-4 ... M Barnes
32 0 HOT FIRE (N Nuttall) J Fitzgerald 4-10-4 ... —
33 p JOVI (C Fenton) D Morrill 4-10-4 ... A Jinks 7
34 0 LEOPARD BEACH (J Fisher) R Fisher 4-10-4 ... J Errington 4
35 p. MIDRIDGE DRIFT (Mrs M Lambert) M Lambert 4-10-4 ... —
37 00f NIMBO (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 4-10-4 ... Mr N Waggott 7
38 0 NOBLE LEGEND (D Gorton) M H Easterby 4-10-4 ... D Dutton 4
39 000pp PANTO ISLAND (C Ratcliffe) C Ratcliffe 4-10-4 ... Mr C Ratcliffe.
40 000 POLLY QUINN (Mrs D Wardman) C Wardman 4-10-4 ... G Oldroyd
41 0 PRECIOUS MOMENTS (Denys Smith) Denys Smith 4-10-4 ... C Pimlott
42 000 SIBMIS (J Wilson) G Harman 4-10-4 ... DOUBTFUL
44 THREE SWALLOWS (D Vinson) K Stone 4-10-4 ... M Pepper 7

2 Master Seal, 4 Big Bryma, 11-2 Bold Illusion, 7 Christmas Cottage, 8 Wild Lone, 10 Baval, 12 Master's Boy, 14 Precious Moments, 20 others.

Wetherby selections

By Michael Seely

1.0 Masterplan. 1.30 POLITICAL POP is specially recommended. 2.0 Sea Merchant. 2.30 Tommy Joe. 3.0 Rathgorman. 3.30 Regal Touch. 4.0 Hot Fire.

Stratford selections

By Michael Seely

1.45 Branding Iron. 2.15 Greenways. 2.45 Reggie Driffield. 3.15 Wings Ground. 3.45 Tom's Little Al. 4.15 Persian Scimitar.

Stratford-on-Avon card

[Television (ITV): 1.45 2.15 and 2.45 races]

1.45 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (5-y-o: £2,155: 2m) (14 runners)

3 23 BRANDING IRON I Balding 11-0 ... Reilly
4 00p-0 BRIAN (B) Ayliffe 11-0 ... M Ayliffe 4
9 00 DERWENT KING Mrs J Croft 11-0 ... Dickin
10 p DEVORAN Dudgeon 11-0 ... Linley
11 0000 DON SABREUR D Peerman 11-0 ... A Webber
12 003 DRAKES COURT C Miller 11-0 ... Kinane
16 0 LAURENCE PARSONS Mrs M Rimell 11-0 ... Morshead
18 0 MIDNIGHT LILY Brazington 11-0 ... C Jones
23 00 ON TRUST Turnell 11-0 ... E Waite 4
26 0001 ROCKS OF BAWN B Cambridge 11-0 ... Mr J Cambridge 4
28 f01f SALTHOUSE (D) Callaghan 11-0 ... Scudamore
29 2143 ST WILLIAM (D) Mrs R Lomax 11-0 ... Mr Peter Hobbs 7
33 0 WESTER ROSS W R Williams 11-0 ... R Millman 7
34 p000- YELLOW CHARTREUSE (B) P Cleveley 11-0 ... Mr P Cleveley 4

5-4 Salthouse, 9-4 Branding Iron, 13-2 St William, 10 Laurence Parsons, 14 Rocks Of Bawn, 20 others.

2.15 HOLSTEN DIAT PILS CHASE (Handicap: £2,834. 2¾m) (14)

2 2001 GREENWAYS (CD) A Jarvis 7-11-10 (9ex) ... Burke
3 f120 KEENGADDY Gaselee 9-11-9 ... —
4 0133 PERSIAN WANDERER (B) Henderson 9-11-9 ... Mr C Beaby 7
6 1-021 JO COLOMBO (C) Jenks 7-11-7 (8 ex) ... R F Davies
8 0b32 SCOT LANE (C) M Tate 9-11-5 ... C Smith
9 0400 GOVENOR'S LAST (CD) R Barton 10-11-2 ... R Floyd
12 44p4 HOBO J J Price 11-11-1 ... G Jones
14 432f MOONLIGHT EXPRESS Gifford 9-10-13 ... Kinane
15 0-210 FROSTY PARK Barrow 10-10-12 ... Scudamore
16 4p-41 FABULOUS (B) Harries 9-10-6 ... P Carvill 4
17 0-00 GALLOPING BUTLER Forster 7-10-5 ... H Davies
19 -0fpp WINTERBOURNE LAD (D) Armytage 8-10-2 ... A Webber
22 2-323 GREEN DOLPHIN M Oliver 8-10-0 ... —
23 4-00u WYNSOME WAY Holt 8-10-0 ... Mr J Holt 4

9-4 Greenways, 3 Jo Colombo, 4 Scot Lane, 6 Keengaddy, 8 Moonlight Express, 12 others.

2.45 BIC RAZOR HURDLE (Handicap: £3,662: 2¾m) (22)

2 /1232 KATHIES LAD A Jarvis 5-11-9 ... Burke
3 2020 SLEEPLESS KNAVE F Walwyn 7-11-2 ... Mr M Bradstock 7
4 0133 TRU MAR Mrs M Rimell 6-11-1 ... Morshead
5 33-11 GALWAY BLAZE (CD) FitzGerald 6-11-1 ... Charlton
7 3023 GREAT DEVELOPER D Nicholson 6-11-0 ... Scudamore
8 03-00 SIEGE KING Dudgeon 9-10-11 ... Linley
9 3200 GLAMOUR SHOW Gifford 6-10-11 ... Kinane
10 00-30 SWANEE PRINCE F Winter 8-10-10 ... Mr D Sherwood
11 10p MILLIONDOLLARMAN Jenks 8-10-10 ... R F Davies
12 10p-2 FRASASS M H Easterby 5-10-8 ... A Brown
14 1000 DROPSHOT G Balding 7-10-8 ... Reilly
15 1/224 PENWOOD N Hall 7-10-6 ... P Carvill 4
16 -0210 TOPEKA M Oliver 6-10-2 ... P Hobbs
18 0003 PADSKI Hollinshead 9-10-0 ... Astbury
19 0-033 ARTICLAC Friday 9-10-0 ... G Jones
20 1114- HOPE OF OAK Charlton 6-10-0 ... P Delaney 7
21 400-4 REGGIE DRIFFIELD Calver 6-10-0 ... C Tinkler
23 0-00f JOAT J Peacock 6-10-0 ... G Evans 7
24 00402 TAN TROED (CD) Mrs K Wallace 9-10-0 ... Jessica Wallace 7
26 220 CITADEL ROC J Bradley 7-10-0 ... G Davies 4
27 0210 CHIRP (B) M Tate 8-10-0 ... Hyett
28 0044 ROBIN HOOD (C) A Andrews 7-10-0 ... C Bourne 7

2 Frasass, 13 Great Developer, 9-2 Galway Blaze, 8 Kathies Lad, 10 Sleepless Knave, Tru Mar, 14 others.

3.15 LOXLEY CHASE (5-y-o novices: £1,200: 2m) (7)

1 4111 IMPERIUM (D) Old 11-12 ... Mr A J Wilson
2 1001 WINGS GROUND Armytage 11-5 ... A Webber
3 pp0-3 CAPTAIN SHADOW Ancil 10-12 ... E Waite 4
5 442 PRINCETON (B) F Winter 10-12 ... Mr O Sherwood
8 0f-p0 SICILLIAN GOLD M Chapman 10-12 ... P Dever 7
9 0002 ST ALEZAN M Tate 10-12 ... Scudamore
10 0400 WESTWOOD DEAL Naughton 10-12 ... —

7-4 Princeton, 3 Imperium, 9-2 Wings Ground, 13-2 St Alezan, 10 Westwood Deal, 16 Captain Shadow, 33 Sicillian Gold.

3.45 CHARLECOTE CHASE (Novice handicap: £1,433: 2m) (10)

1 1u1d MASTERSON (D) Mrs M Rimell 7-11-10 ... Morshead
4 430 JAMES SEYMOUR Gaselee 8-10-13 ... Linley
6 1-64 BRAVE FELLOW FitzGerald 8-10-10 ... P Charlton
8 0u23 WALTZER Ayliffe 11-10-7 ... M Ayliffe
9 0411 TOM'S LITTLE AL (DB) W R Williams 6-10-7 (8ex) ... R Millman 7
10 3/32-0 COUNT UP Turnell 8-10-6 ... E Waite 4
11 032-p MIDNIGHT SONG Forster 7-10-4 ... H Davies
15 442f MARINE CADET J Charlton 8-10-0 ... P Delaney 7
17 04p-p SINGING SAINT Mrs A Finch 10-10-0 ... Mr A Sharpe 7
20 0-00 RED CLIP Gilbert 8-10-0 ... —

11-8 Tom's Little Al, 7-2 Masterson, 5 Midnight Song, 15-2 Brave Fellow, 10 Waltzer, 14 James Seymour, 16 others.

4.15 CREDIT CALL CUP CHASE (Hunters: £640: 3¼m) (8)

1 040-0 CEDOR'S DAUGHTER (D) Miss S Griffiths 11-12-10 ... Mr N Oliver 7
2 211u- PERSIAN SCIMITAR Mrs V Robertson 9-12-10 ... Mr N Bush 7
4 1- FOXBANK R W-Cohen 9-12-7 ... Mr S Bowen 7
6 3- COURT LAND R Mathew 9-12-0 ... Mr P Nicholls 7
8 30p4/ GIVE IT BEST J Wyatt 10-12-0 ... Mr J Wyatt 7
9 u24/23- MEET IN THE CASBAH H Manners 8-12-0 ... Mr A J Wilson
11 f4- ROYAL DUST Mrs E Cockburn 8-12-0 ... Mr R Mann 7
12 RONDER BALLAD Miss W Mills 8-12-0 ... —

4-6 Persian Scimitar, 4 Meet In The Casbah, 15-2 Cedor's Daughter, 10 Foxbank, 14 Court Land, 20 others.

Kempton results

Going: Good to soft

1.30 (1.31) FEBRUARY HURDLE (Div I: novices: £1,282 2m)
AL KUWAIT br h by Blakeney — Camacho (Sheik Fahad) 6-11-0 J Francome (11-10 fav) 1
Corbenson ... P Hobbs (20-1) 2
Esal Condor ... P Haynes (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win: 19p; places, 14p £1.06, 13p. Dual F: £2.65. CSF: £2.56. F Winter, at Lambourn. 2½l, 10l. Cassley (10-1) 4th. 15 ran. N Rs: Pianoso, Morning Line.

2.0 (2.1) PARK CHASE Handicap: £2,219: 2m)
DURHAM LAD b g by Tycoon II — Miss Scribbler (J Kelly) 9-10-10 A Webber (4-1) 1
Tower Moss ... C Mann (8-1) 2
Excelsior ... M Hammond (7-1) 3
TOTE: Win: 35p; places, 15p, 45p. Dual F: £1.78. CSF: £3.47. C Wildman, at Salisbury. 3l, 1½l. The Herb (9-4 fav) 4th. 7 ran.

2.30 (2.31) FAIRMILE CHASE (Novices handicap: £3,406: 3m)
FOXBURY ch m by Healaugh Fox—Sunny Fort (S Richards) 8-10-4 Mrs L. Sheedy (14-1) 1
Random Leg ... R. Champion (5-4 fav) 2
New Harbour ... R. G. Hughes (9-2) 3
TOTE: Win £1.84; places, 60p, 12p. Dual F 77p. CSF: £2.89. Mrs G. Richards at Ross-on-Wye. 1½l, 12l. Foolsome (33-1) 4th. 6 ran.

3.0 (3.1) WILFRED JOHNSTONE CHASE (Hunters: £1,238: 2½m)
DANCING BRIG br g by New Brig—Dancing Deal (Mrs L. Clay) 11-12-3 Mr T. Clay (9-2) 1
Roadhead ... Miss M. Wilson (7-4 fav) 2
Song of Life ... Mr P. Greenall (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win 58p; places, 21p, 10p, 27p. Dual F 40p. CSF: £1.28. T. Clay at Arundel. ½l, ½l. Winner Chic (11-2) 4th. 11 ran.

3.30 (3.31) WAVENDON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,888: 2½m)
SANHEDRIN ch g Salingo—India (D Thorne) 5-10-3 M Lynn (4-1 fav) 1
Mansion Marauder b h Dubassoff—Smokey's Sister (Lt-Col E Harries) 6-10-8 P Corrigan (9-2) 2
Mandalite ch m King's Company—Ermine Beauty (J Pears) 6-10-3 A Wright (14-1) 3
TOTE Win: 40p, places: 15p, 10p, 48p, 16p. Dual forecast: 66p. CSF: £2.37. Tricast: £22.03. G. Balding at Weyhill. 1½l, nk. Teras (5-1) 4th. 16 ran.

4.0 (4.4) FEBRUARY HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £1,248: 2m)
MIRROR BOY, ch b by Places of Eight — Knocknashee (n Whitcomb) 5-11-1 C Gwilliam (100-30) 1
Champagne Charlie ... S Keightley (9-1) 2
Young Dusky ... J Francome (9-4 fav) 3
TOTE: Win 38p; places, 14p, 50p, 15p. Dual F: 75p. CSF: £3.56. H. Price at Findon. 2l, hd. Pykestaff (14-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR Administrator. JACKPOT: Not won. Pool of £624.90 carried forward to Kempton today. PLACEPOT: £12.60. TOTE DOUBLE: Foxbury & Sanhedrin: £103.95. TOTE TREBLE: Durham Lad, Dancing Brig, Mirror Boy, £29.25.

Kelso

Going: good

1.15 (1.15) MAXTON HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £589: 2m)
THE CLIFTONIAN, b c by Firestreak — Ile de France (D. Peters) 4-10-0 C. Pimlott (2-1) 1
Conform ... J. J. O'Neill (8-1) 2
Scottish Dream ... N. Balmer (7-4 fav) 3
TOTE: Win, 45p; places, 12p, 32p, 24p. Dual F: 97p. CSF: £2.00. M. W. Dickinson at Harewood. 6l, 1l. Master Blaster (20-1) 4th. 19 ran.

1.45 (1.45) MAKERSTOUN HURDLE (Selling handicap: £522: 2m)
KIBCOY, b g by Kibenka — Coya (W. Stephenson) 5-11-5 bl R. Campbell (11-4 fav) 1
Go Lightly ... M. Stephens (10-1) 2
Pyldon ... M. Brennan (9-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 19p; places, 10p, 25p, 13p. Dual F: £3.60. CSF: £3.15. Tricast: £20.46. C. Bell at Hawick. 1½l, 1l. Kerai (33-1) 4th. 12 ran.

2.15 (2.15) RUTHERFORD CHASE (Handicap: £937: 2m 198yd)
EVEN MELODY br g by Even Money — Scotch Tune (S Lycett Green) 13-11-2 C. Hawkins (5-1) 1
Dusky Duke ... R. Lamb (4-1) 2
Polars Laddie ... Mr T. G. Dun (5-1) 3
TOTE: Win 73p; places, 10p, 12p, 13p. Dual F: 99p. CSF: £2.50. N. Crump, at Middleham. 1½l, 1l. Clown Court (2-1 fav) 4th. 8 ran.

2.45 (2.50) MAXTON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £614: 2m)
CAMBOURNE HILL b g by Paddy's Progress — Asmunda (Mrs A. Ogilvy) 6-11-1 C. Pimlott (7-1) 1
Irishman ... C. Hawkins (7-4 fav) 2
Dojamola ... D. Wilkinson (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win 85p; places, 22p, 19p, 31p. Dual F: 56p. CSF: £2.23. C. Bell, at Hawick. ½l, ½l. Leam Lord (12-1) 4th. 21 ran.

3.15 (3.17) TEVIOT CHASE (Handicap: £1,303: 2¾m)
ARPAL GLIDER b g by Laurence O—Lady Glimmer (G Adam) 8-10-2 M. Barnes (20-1) 1
Lanobeny ... P. Tuck (4-1) 2
Easby Gold ... C. Hawkins (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win £7.18; places, £1.22, 23p, 26p. Dual F £9.81. CSF £10.20. Tricast £37.13. W. Fairgrieve at Galashiels. ½l, 8l. River Sirene 100-30 fav. What A Coup (10-1) 4th. 13 ran.

3.45 (3.47) ANCRUM CHASE (Novices: £904: 3m)
TWICE TIMES b g by Cagirama—Magetta (J Brockbank) 7-11-7 Mr L Hudson (8-1) 1
Penobee ... Mr D Swindlehurst (25-1) 2
Darth Vader ... Mr T. G. Dun (34-1) 3
TOTE: Win £1.07; places, 33p, £6.89, 74p. Dual F £7.80. CSF £20.46. J. Brockbank at Wigton. 3l, 1l. Twilight 100-30 fav. Mr Brady (4-1) 4th. 16 ran.

4.15 (4.20) MAXTON HURDLE (Div III: Novices: £609: 2m)
GEORDIE LAD b f. by Track Spare — Sliesca (R Baker) 4-10-0 C Tinkler (5-2) 1
Headmere ... J J O'Neill (6-4 fav) 2
Derek's Bay ... S Charlton (16-1) 3
TOTE: win — 78p; places 12p, 13p, £1.32. Dual F:— 16p. CSF: 75p. Denys Smith, at Bishop Auckland. 1l, 15l. Place Concorde (10-1) 4th. 20 ran. PLACEPOT: £43.30.

☐ Joe Blanks, the Sussex-based jockey who was fatally injured in a fall at Brighton last summer, will be remembered at the course on July 7 when the Joe Blanks Memorial Challenge Cup will be contested for the first time. The race will be a mile handicap for three-year-olds and upwards.

☐ David Elsworth's stable jockey, Colin Brown, who rode doubles on the first and the last day of January, has been named Amoco Jockey of the Month for January. Brown will receive an inscribed whip and cheque to the value of 100 gallons of petrol.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS

MARRIAGE

DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s.27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SMEDLEY, Wallace Venables of Collstaple Farmhouse, Bourne Hill, Horsham, Sussex, died on 9th October 1981. Particulars to Lickfolds Wiley & Powles Solicitor(s) of 7 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W1Y 2BX, before 8th April 1982.

In the Matter of BLUE SKY Limited and In the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 1st day of March, 1982, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Maurice Charles Withall of Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London, WC1V 6DW, the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such times and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 3rd day of February 1982.

M. C. WITHALL, Liquidator.

OF INSPECTION.
Dated 2nd February 1982.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity—The National Ambulance Service Benevolent Fund.
The Charity Commissioners have made a SCHEME for this charity. Copies can be obtained from them at 14 Ryder Street, London SW1Y 6AH. (ref: 257059-A1-L1).

NON-SECRETARIAL

BOOKKEEPER/PA £7,000, WC2. The Director General of this Trade Association is looking for a responsible secretary with excellent bookkeeping experience. Sh/typing necessary but this will only take up 20% of your time. Age 40-50.—Ring 437 1126, Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

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MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Issued 3rd February, 1982, £1.2m Bills due 5th May, 1982, @ 13.17/32%. Applications £7.2m. Total outstanding £1.2m.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Issued 3rd February, 1982, £2.0m Bills due 5th May, 1982, @ 13.17/32%. Applications £2.0m. Total outstanding £8.0m.

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

... The offers on behalf of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings Limited for the whole of the share capital of Anglo International Mining Corporation Limited (formerly the Palmarejo and Mexican Gold-Fields Limited) were declared unconditional in all respects on 2nd December, 1981.
Any shareholder who has not yet accepted the offers and who wishes to receive the consideration offered thereunder should contact Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Worthing (telephone: 0903 502541, extension 1308).

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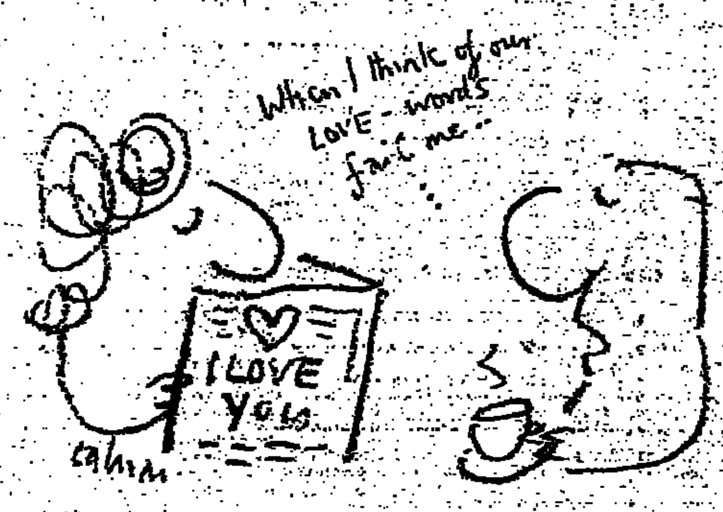

For Valentine's Day The Times could print a personal message for you, to the one of your choice.* Just complete the coupon and write your message on a separate piece of paper and send it together with a cheque or postal order to the address written below by 9th February.

UK readers only: Included in the price of £12.75 for 3 lines (minimum) and each additional line £3.25. A beautiful orchid will be sent to your loved one informing them of your message in The Times.

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To be printed on Saturday, February 13.

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Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to: Times Newspapers Limited. Return to: The Times, Valentine's Day Messages, Room F215, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ
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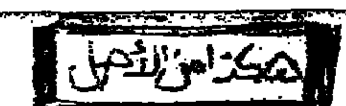


هكذا من الأصل

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

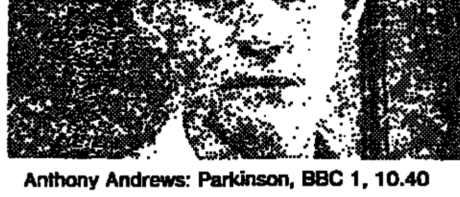
Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

9.05 Swim: perfecting the back stroke (r); 9.30 Swap Shop: with Sheena Easton and Bill (Last of the Summer Wine) Owen; 12.15 Grandstand. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 Ski-ing from Schladming; 1.05 News Summary; 1.10 Skating: the European Championships (highlights of the ice dancing competition); 1.20 Racing from Wetherby; 1.40 World Bobsleigh Championships, from St Moritz (the two-man bob); 1.50 Racing from Wetherby; 2.10 Bobsleigh championships; 2.20 International Rugby Union: England versus Ireland. From Twickenham. Bill Beaumont's men are going all out for a hat trick of wins against the Irish; 3.50 Half-time scores; 3.55 Wales versus France. From Cardiff Arms Park. Highlights of the big game.

4.35 Grandstand: Final scores. And pools check.
5.10 The All New Pink Panther Show: three cartoons; 5.30 News; 5.40 Sport.
5.45 Kung Fu: Offbeat Western series. Caine (David Carradine) re-lives some of the events that led to his exile from China.
6.35 Jim'll Fix It: Two children spend a day with the Metropolitan Police and a little girl shrinks and expands, Alice style.
7.10 Nanny: Sophia, home from boarding school, draws closer to a young groom and this puts Barbara (Wendy Craig) on the spot.
8.05 The Les Dawson Show: with Helen Gelzer (of Bubbling Brown Sugar) and the 12-year-old pianist Vince Pope.
8.35 Dallas: J. R. continues in his attempts to regain custody of his son.

9.25 News. And sports round-up.
9.40 Match of the Day: Action from three Football League matches. And result of January's Goal of the Month competition.
10.40 Parkinson. With Joan Collins, Anthony Andrews, Larry Adler.
11.40 Golden Soak: Episode 4 of the Hammond Innes thriller. There has been an explosion at the gold mine. Was it an accident — or a murder attempt? With Ray Barrett. Ends at 12.30.


Anthony Andrews: Parkinson, BBC 1, 10.40

BBC 2

10.10 Open University. Starting School; 10.35 Governing Schools (the interview); 11.00 Students meet the Vice-Chancellor; 11.25 Introduction to Education; 12.15 Introduction to the Organ; 1.05 Maths methods; 1.30 Before Einstein; 2.20 Closedown; 3.05 Film: Against the Wind* (1947) British-made wartime drama about seven people involved in a sabotage mission against the Gestapo in Belgium. Starring Robert Beatty, Simone Signoret, Jack Warner, Gordon Jackson. Screenplay by T.E.B. Clarke. Directed by Charles Crichton.

4.35 The play Away Square Tomato Show: Sketches and music
5.00 Film: The Glass Mountain* (1948) Romantic drama set in wartime Italy about a British composer (Michael Denison) who writes an opera based on an old alpine legend.
6.35 Oxford: The Other Image. The story of a good neighbour policy that has survived the 1977 Queen's Silver Jubilee euphoria; 7.05 News
7.25 Did You See . . . ? Includes a special report on privacy and the filmmaker. Also, reviews of The Test Tube Explosion (from Hilary Henson), Two Nations (Barry Hines) and The Bell
8.05 Ceremonies and Rituals: 1981 Prom concert with a difference

9.00 Ceremonies and Rituals (continued). We see, and hear, the Thai Classical Music Group (with dancers) from Bangkok; Harrison Birtwistle's FO, for O, the Hobby Horse; and Messiaen's The Ascension (organist Timothy Bond).
9.45 Film International: Josephine (1980) German-made drama about an incestuous obsession that brings a middle-class family to the abyss of disaster.
11.35 The Light of Experience: The high price paid by Dr Grace Jantzen, a lecturer in the philosophy of religion, when she broke with a close-knit Christian sect in Canada; 11.50 News.
11.55 Film: A Night to Remember* (1943) Comedy-thriller in which a crime writer and his wife (Brian Aherne and Loretta Young) discover a body in their garden.

ITV/LONDON

8.35 Sesame Street: with The Muppets; 9.35 Thunderbirds; 10.30 Tiswas: the noisiest show on earth; 12.15 World of Sport. The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 The World Alpine Ski-ing Championships; 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven. We see the following races. From Kempton, the 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00. From Stratford, the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45; At 3.10 there's Swimming and Athletics — the Speedo Meet, from Amersfoort in The Netherlands, and The Los Angeles Times Games. Among those competing in the athletics are Renaldo Nehemiah and Steve Scott; 3.45 Half-time football news and reports of other sports events.

4.00 Wrestling: World of Sport (continued). Wrestling. From Preston. One Middleweight and two Heavyweight bouts; 4.50 Results.
5.05 News from ITN.
5.15 Happy Days: The school play which a passionate love scene — and what follows.
5.45 Dick Turpin: The highwayman (Richard O'Sullivan) goes on a rescue mission. Bryan Marshall plays the dastardly Barnaby Huck.
6.15 3-2-1: Quiz show with comedy interludes which tonight puts the emphasis on magic. The MC is Ted Rogers, and three couples compete for big prizes.
7.45 Hart to Hart: Jennifer (Stefanie Powers) is stalked by a psychotic judge of a rose contest.
8.45 News from ITN. And sports reports.

9.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror (1978) Made-for-television science fiction shocker (a distant relative of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde) in which an experiment in cloning has terrifying results. The principal stars are Robert Forster, as the young professor whose blood cells are being used in the experiment, and Ray Milland as his former teacher whose mistake results in the unleashing of a monstrous Thing. Also starring Adrienne Barbeau. Directed by Gus Trikonis.
10.45 OTT: The music-and-comedy show that is about as subtle as a blow from the hammer that descends on heads in the lunatic Beat Yourself Up interlude. The producer and star, Chris Tarrant, is interviewed in LWT's new afternoon show London Talking tomorrow (LWT, 1.00).
11.45 London news headlines. And: Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. Already seen in the United States earlier this week. With actresses Sally Field, and Cathy Moriarty.
12.25 Close: With Quentin Crisp.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News.
6.32 Farming Today.
6.50 Yours Faithfully. Religious affairs.
6.55 Weather and Programme News.
7.00 News.
7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's a Bargain.
7.55 Weather and Programme News.
8.00 News.
8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport on 4.
8.50 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakaway.
9.50 News Stand.
10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.30 Daily Service.†
10.45 Pick of the Week.†
11.35 From our own Correspondent.
12.00 News.
12.02 Money Box.
12.27 Just a Minute.†
12.55 Weather and Programme News.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions?
2.00 News.
2.05 Play. "John Peel and the Old Devil", by Peter Crowter.†
2.35 Medicine Now.
3.05 Wildlife.
3.30 The British Seafarer. A history in the words of those who made it (4) The Merchants.†
4.15 Feedback with Tom Vernon.
4.30 Does he Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled listeners.
5.00 Novels Up To Now. A look at the novel since the war (6). Figures in Carpet.
5.25 Week Ending.†
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs. Castaway J. K. Galbraith, the economist.†
6.55 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson.
7.35 Baker's Dozen. Richard Baker plays records.
8.30 Play: 'A Touch of Frost' by R. D. Wingfield.
9.58 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 Diary. Joan Bakewell looks at the world of the diarist.
11.00 Lighten our Darkness. An evening meditation.
11.15 A Word in Edgeways.
11.45 On the Train to New Zealand. Ray Gosling talks about his travels to the East (6). Calcutta Christmas.
12.00 News and Weather.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Aubade. Rossini, Ponce, Meyerbeer arr. Lambert; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review.†
10.15 Stereo Release. New records: Bach, Messiaen, Bach.†
11.15 Bandstand. Lewis Merthyr Band: Mervyn Burtch, Peter Graham, Edward Gregson.†
11.45 I Know What I Like. A personal choice of records by Irish composer, Seoirse Bodley.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Early Music Forum.†
2.00 Play It Again. Selection of recent music broadcasts.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests with Peter Clayton.†
5.45 Critics' Forum. Weekly review of broadcasting, cinema, theatre, books and the visual arts.†
6.35 Violin and Piano Recital: Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Ravel.†
7.30 Fonefun Ltd. A short story by Bernard MacLaverty.
8.00 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Concert, Part 1: Blomdahl, Beethoven.†
8.50 Interval reading.
8.55 Concert, part 2: Sibelius.
9.45 The Village Song Man. A portrait of Robert Hardy, stonebreaker and singer in South Brent, Devon, in the nineteenth century.†
10.30 Liszt. Piano recital.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Horn and Piano. Florent Schmitt; record.†

Radio 2

5.00am Peter Marshall with The Saturday Early Show.† 8.04 David Jacobs.† 10.00 Star Choice Rupert Holmes presents his favourite music.† 11.05 Everett MD.† 1.00pm Know Your Place. Comedy series. 1.30 Sport on 2: Rugby Union: England v Ireland; Football; Cricket; England as they move on to Sri Lanka; Racing. 5.00 Sports Report. 6.00 Country Greats in Concert featuring Marty Robbins and Diane Pfeifer. 7.00 Beat the Record. 7.30 Big Band Special.† 8.00 Saturday Night is Gala Night.† 10.00 A Century of Music Belgium 1910-1919.† 11.03 Pete Murray.† 2.00-5.00am You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Playground. 8.00 Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Peter Powell. 12.00 My Top 12. 1.00 Adrian Juste.† 2.00 A King in New York.† 2.05 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Walters' Weekly.† 5.00 Rock On.† 6.30 In Concert.† 7.30 Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 From the Weeklies 7.30 Music for the Harpsichord 7.45 Network UK 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Peebles' Choice 8.30 Rythm 'n' Roots 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 Science in Action 10.15 About Britain 10.30 A Murder of Quality 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 New Ideas 11.25 The Week in Wales 11.30 Meridian 12.00 Radio Newsreel 12.15 Anything Goes 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.09 Commentary 1.15 Network UK 1.30 Opera Gallery 1.45 Strictly Instrumental 2.15 The Instrument Makers 2.30 Rhythm n Roots 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Saturday Special 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Saturday Special 5.00 News Summary 5.02 Saturday Special 8.00 World News 8.09 Commentary 8.15 Good Books 9.15 Twentieth Century Folk 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 World News 10.09 From Our Own Correspondent 10.30 New Ideas 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letterbox 11.30 Meridian 12.00 World News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Play of the Week 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Good Books 2.30 Sports Review 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Rhithm 'n' Roots 4.00 Newsdesk 5.45 Letter from America

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95 8MHz BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94 9MHz World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1

BBC Cymru/Wales 12.15-5.10 pm Grandstand. Details as BBC1 except International Rugby Union: Wales v France. 5.40-5.45 Sports News Wales. 12.30 am Weather. Scotland 9.5-9.30 pm Mag is Mog. 5.40-5.45 Scoreboard. 9.45-10.45 Sportscene. 12.30 am News. Northern Ireland 5.00-5.10 pm Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Northern Ireland News. 12.30 am News headlines. England 5.40-5.45 pm (South-West only) Saturday Spotlight. 12.35 am Close.

HTV

As London except: Starts 9.10 am Adventures of Black Beauty. 9.30-10.30 Thunderbirds. 12.13 pm-12.15 News 5.14 News. 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 9.00-10.45 Film: There's a Girl in my Soup (Peter Sellers, Goldie Hawn, Tony Britton). TV personality considers himself to be an authority on the female sex, that is, until he meets Marion . . . 11.45 New Avengers. 12.40 am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As London except: Starts 9.00am Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Joe 90. 5.15pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 Reflections. 11.50 Dolly. 12.20am Closedown.

ANGLIA

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Sport Billy. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 Amazing Years of Cinema: Magicians. 12.45 am At the End of the Day.

TWS

As London except: Starts 9.25 am The Saturday Show. 10.25 Survival. 10.50 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 10.55 Incredible Hulk. 11.45 University Challenge. 12.12 pm-12.15 News. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 5.40-5.45 Newsport. 7.45-8.45 Full Guy (Lee Majors). 11.45 Video Sounds Mike Oldfield. 12.15 am Postscript. 12.21 Closedown.

ULSTER

As London except: Starts 10.00 am-10.30 Stingray. 1.18 pm-1.20 News. 5.00-5.05 Sports Results. 5.13 News. 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 10.45 Monte Carlo Show with Glen Campbell. 11.35 Bedtime. Followed by Closedown.

HTV CYMRU / WALES

As HTV West except: 9.10 am-9.30 The Book Tower. 5.15 pm-5.45 Siôn a Siân: Quiz.

TVS

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Saturday Brief. 9.05 Sesame Street. 10.00 Here's Boomer. 10.30-12.15 pm No. 73: Welcome for young viewers. 5.15 News. 5.20-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 Barney Miller. 12.15 am Company, followed by Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As London except: Starts 9.15 am Vicky the Viking. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 That's Hollywood: Animals and other actors. 12.20 am Closedown.

GRANADA

As London except: Starts 9.20 am Spiderman. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 5.15 pm Bugs Bunny. 5.20-6.15 Chips. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 Lou Grant. 12.40 Palace Presents

TYNE TEES

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Cartoon. 9.10 Sport Billy. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 12.13 pm-12.15 News. 5.15 News. 5.17-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 House Calls. 12.15 am Three's Company. 12.25 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As London except: Starts 9.00am-10.30 Film: Go For A Take. Reg Varney runs amok in a film studio in this romp about two waiters chased by gangsters. 5.15pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum 11.45 That's Hollywood: Great Entertainers 12.15am Closedown

CENTRAL

As London except: Starts 9.05am Paint Along With Nancy. 9.30-10.30 Sesame Street. 5.15pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.45 Countdown with Randy Crawford. 12.10am Closedown.

BORDER

As London except: Starts 9.35 am-10.30 Thunderbirds 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnum 10.45 Hear Here: Nick Straker 11.00 Young Down and Outs: The dramatic increase in the number of youngsters arriving in London from the provinces to try to find work. 11.30 Closedown.

CHANNEL

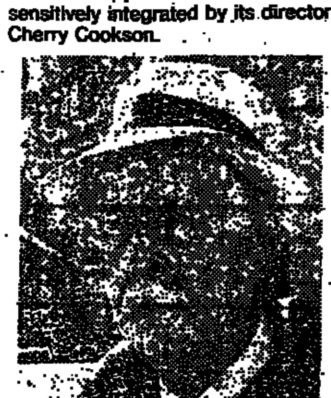
As London except: Starts 12.15 pm World of Sport. 5.15 Mork and Mindy 5.40-5.45 Puffin's Pla(i)ce 7.45-8.45 Fall Guy (Lee Majors) 11.45 Video Sounds: Mike Oldfield 12.15 am Closedown

CHOICE

● ART OF THE AD (Sunday, ITV, 10.30), a study of TV commercials enters the South Bank Show by the backdoor — if we can agree that, by front door, we mean the old, long-established art forms with which Melvyn Bragg and his team enliven our Sunday nights while teaching us a thing or two in the process. When Leonard Rossiter causes a Cinzano to dampen Joan Collins's décolletage, the last thing you'd claim for the incident is that it is art. But surely it's not such a good advertisement for Cinzano, either, and that's a paradox that's scarcely touched upon in Tony Cash's otherwise admirable film. What does emerge clearly from Germaine Greer's championing of the British TV commercial is the devilishly clever way it manipulates British class-consciousness. Thus the cosy, nostalgic Hovis ad, with cobbled streets, rough kitchen table and Dvorak in domestic mood. Thus the snooty group in the butler's pantry, being superior about a packet of peanuts. It comes as no surprise to learn that some of the best TV commercials are the work of some of the best movie directors. It was Hugh Hudson, who made Chariots of Fire who was responsible for the brilliant commercial about chariots of quite a different sort, the Fiat Strada range.

● STALKY AND CO (Sunday, BBC 1, 5.15) plays fair by Kipling, which means that anyone expecting this public school to be populated by nice chaps like Harry Wharton and Co is in for a nasty shock . . . THE BELL (Sunday, BBC 2, 8.05) officially ended last Wednesday. Tonight's episode is a repeat and is both ludicrous and heartbreaking. Like every preceding episode, in fact.

● LETTERS HOME (Sunday, Radio 3, 7.25), a life of the American poet Sylvia Plath, told mainly through her letters to her mother, ends with an act of self-destruction. But it is the slow, remorseless destruction of the artistic impulse and the erosion of idealism that is the real tragedy in Rose Leiman Goldemberg's distinguished drama. Brilliantly acted by Anna Nygh and June Brown, and imaginatively and sensitively integrated by its director, Cherry Cookson.


Richard Vernon: BBC 1, 7.10

BBC 1

9.00 Heads and Tails; 9.15 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan: Immigration is the theme of an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie; 9.45 Good for Business: under new management (r); 10.10 Managing the Micro: new technology (r); 10.35 Business Club: Interview with a Co Durham small businessman; 11.00 See Hear! for the deaf; 11.25 Ensemble: French lesson; 11.50 Maths Help: for O-level students; 12.00 Accident of Birth: mental handicap; 12.15 Day One: Religious magazine; 1.00 Farming; 1.30 Craft of the Weaver: woven hangings (r); 1.55 News; 2.00 Film: Carry on Constable* (1960). The comedy team join the force; 3.20 European Ice Figure Skating Championships: From Lyons. Highlights of the week's big events.

4.10 Tom and Jerry: two cartoons; 4.25 Show Dogs: Curtain-raiser for Crufts.
4.55 Mickey and Donald: Disney cartoon special.
5.15 Stalky and Co: Episode 2 of the Kipling public school yarn. Today: a question of trespass.
5.45 So You Want to Stop Smoking: Final programme for former puffers; 5.55 News.
6.05 Holiday: The Algarve; camping in the South of France; Hereford and the Malvern hills.
6.40 Songs of Praise: from St Paul's, Bristol.
7.15 King's Royal: episode 5. Blows continue to fall on the head of the family (Tom Bell).
8.05 Film: The Black Windmill (1974). Thriller in which a British secret service agent's son is kidnapped. Starring Michael Caine, Janet Suzman, Joseph O'Conor.

9.45 Omnibus: Bernard Clark on G. F. Newman's new play about police corruption, Bad Apple; Frank Delaney on Dublin and James Joyce; and Barry Norman talking to Barry Humphreys. With Dame Edna and Sir Les Patterson.
10.35 News: with Jan Leeming.
11.20 Couples: Two "gay" couples talk about their lives together and erxplain how, despite the fact that they have come up against bigotry, they have managed to work out a stable way of life for themselves. Includes an interview with Dr John Sketchley, a psychologist and counsellor to "gay" people.
11.45 The Sky at Night: The Pioneer spacecraft have excitingly broadened our knowledge of Venus. Patrick Moore reviews some of the new information we have about the planet.
12.05 Weather forecast.

BBC 2

10.10 Open University: The First Years of Life (World at One); 10.35 Introduction to Chemistry and Geology; 11.00 An Introduction: Oceanography; 11.50 Bronze Casting; 12.15 Women Beware Women (includes a discussion involving Christopher Hill). Open University ends at 1.30; At 3.20: Horizon: Whatever Happened to the Energy Crisis? How we can reduce our energy consumption and still lead a pretty good life. The programme takes a dim view of the need for a massive increase in nuclear power production — an argument that has often been put forward as a solution to the energy crisis (r)

4.10 Ski Sunday: The World Championships, from Schladming. We see the Men's Slalom.
4.55 Rugby Special: Highlights of yesterday's England v Ireland and Wales versus France matches.
6.00 News Review.
6.30 The Money Programme: The return of John Bentley, the headline-making 1960s entrepreneur.
7.15 The World About Us: The Samurai from Twickenham. Film about Michael Jay, the only foreigner to take part in Japan's Soma Wild Horse Chase.

8.05 The Bell: Final episode of the Iris Murdoch story. The unveiling ceremony has a chaotic ending (r).
9.00 News: with Jan Leeming.
9.05 International Pro-Celebrity Golf: From the Queen's Course, at Gleneagles. Snooker player Cliff Thorburn and Jerry Pate take on speedway star Dave Jessup and Lee Trevino.
9.55 Australian Film Season: The Mango Tree (1977). Drama about a 17-year-old lad and the end of his boyhood in a small country town in Queensland. He is played by Christopher Pate. Robert Helpmann plays a drunken professor, and Geraldine Fitzgerald is the boy's grandmother.
11.25 Star Brass: Non-stop music from the Agnes Street Band, conducted by Ernest Ruddock.

ITV/LONDON

9.05 Be Your Own Boss: Henry Cooper explains how; 9.30 Lost Islands: shipwrecked children drama (r); 10.00 Morning Worship: from St Stephen's and West Parish Church, Broughty Ferry; 11.00 Getting On: a better deal for the elderly poor; 11.30 Stingray; 12.00 Weekend World: Brian Walden and the dispute that has crippled Britain's railways; 1.00 London Talking: Viewers sound off about ITV programmes and put questions to programme makers and celebrities. With Melvyn Bragg as MC; 1.45 Old Times: Elderly people within the family circle. With Alastair Hetherington; 2.15 Police 5: 2.30 News Headlines, followed by The Big Match: Action from three of yesterday's top League games; 3.30 Barriers: Drama serial about the mysterious fate of a boy's parents. Starring Benedict Taylor.

4.00 Jaywalking: Sue Jay meets some Hell's Angels who have become Christians, and finds out about inner-city parishes; 4.30 Cartoon time.
4.45 Film: Double Bunk: (1960) Romantic comedy about newly-weds taking part in a yacht race. With Ian Carmichael, Janette Scott, Sidney James, Liz Fraser and Dennis Price.
6.30 News from ITN.
6.40 Sunday Best: Religious entertainment, including Donald Swann songs at the piano.
7.15 The Fall Guy: Action-filled drama about a Hollywood stuntman (Lee Majors).
8.15 A Fine Romance: Laura's dinner engagement upsets Michael who has a new temporary secretary. With Judi Dench, Michael Williams and Susan Penhaligon.
8.45 News from ITN.

9.00 Airline: A second plane has been added to Jack Ruskin's airline — and another crew member. His troubles increase, too. Trying to play a joke on the shady Ernie Cade, he narrowly misses colliding with an RAF Harvard, and his licence to fly is suspended. Not that small matters like that deter Jack Ruskin. Roy Marsden plays Ruskin and Terence Rigby is Cade.
10.00 Wood and Walters: Comedy (in words and music) from Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. They play a folk group called The Northerners. Also, there's a production of Fanny By Gaslight in the Scout hut and a song on the joys of a seaside holiday.
10.30 The South Bank Show: Art of the Ad. Germaine Greer speaks up for the television commercial (see Choice).
11.30 London news headlines. They are followed by: Star Parade. Variety show. The guests include Abba, and the host is James Last.
12.30 Close: Quentin Crisp talks about living with style.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Morning Has Broken.
6.55 Weather and Programme News.
7.00 News.
8.00 News and Sunday Papers.
8.15 Sunday. Religious news.
8.50 Week's Good Cause. David Jacobs appeals on behalf of The David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy.
8.55 Weather and Programme News.
9.00 News and Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter From America.
9.30 Morning Service.
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.15 Weekend.
12.00 Smash of the Day. Hancock's Half-Hour starring Tony Hancock.
12.30 The Food Programme.
12.55 Weather and Programme News.
1.00 The World This Weekend: News.
2.00 News.
2.02 Gardeners' Question Time visits Cambridgeshire.
2.30 Play. "A Fool For a Cigarette" by Alan McDonald.†
3.45 The Song That Stopped the War. The story behind "Lili Marlene".
4.00 News.
4.02 Talking About Antiques. Arthur Negus discusses listeners' questions.
4.30 The Living World. Magazine edition.
5.00 News.
5.05 Down Your Way.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Jesus the Liberator with Gerald Priestland.
7.00 Around the World in 25 Years with Johnny Morris.†
7.30 Bookshelf. Magazine programme about books.
8.00 Music to Remember. BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra: Bizet, Saint-Saens.†
9.00 News.
9.02 Bleak House. (new series) by Charles Dickens. Dramatized in eight parts. †
9.58 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 Great Families of Britain. A series of radio portraits (4) The Fitzgeralds of Leinster.†
11.00 Before the Ending of the Day.
11.15 Inside Parliament.
12.00 News and Weather Report.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Collegium Aureum Gluck, Handel, Michael Haydn; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice Record requests: Lekeu (mono), Widor Schubert, Kodaly.†
10.30 Music Weekly.†
11.20 From the Proms Concert recorded August 1981: Mahler, Symphony No.3 Talk by John Sparrow (1).
1.10 Israel Piano Quartet Recital: Beethoven, Faure.†
2.15 John Socman. An opera in three acts by George Lloyd.†
3.15 A Closer Look. Poet Vernon Scannell looks at three works by Keith Douglas.
3.35 John Socman Act 2.†
4.40 Interval reading.
4.45 John Socman, Act 3.
5.30 The Gym Lesson. A short story by Rainer Maria Rilke.
5.50 The Organ Works of J. S. Bach Recital on the organ of Trinity College Chapel Cambridge.†
6.30 Interpretations on Record Schumann's "Kinderszenen".†
7.25 Letters Home by Rose Leiman Goldemberg, based on Sylvia Plath's letters.†
9.00 BBC Manchester Master Concert. Given earlier this evening in the Free Trade Hall. Part 1: Mozart.†
9.45 In a Nutshell. "Women, Children and Walnuts" by Barry Pilton
9.50 Concert. Part 2: Peter Maxwell Davies.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Stephen Dodgson record.† VHF ONLY — 6.55-7.55 am Open University.

Radio 2

5.00 Peter Marshall.† 7.30 Nick Page.† 9.00 David Jacobs.† 11.00 Desmond Carrington.† 12.00 Paul Daniels.† 1.30 Listen to Les.† 2.00 Benny Green.† 3.00 Two's Best. 4.00 Sing Something Simple.† 4.30 String Sound.† 5.00 Comedy Classics: "Dad's Army". 5.30 Charlie Chester. 6.30 Acker's 'Alf 'Our. 7.00 The World. of . . . John Watson. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9.00 Your 100 Best Tunes. 10.00 Europe 82: Denmark.† 11.00 Pete Murray.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

8.00 Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 Jimmy Savile 3.00 Studio B15. 5.00 Top 40.† 7.00 The Record Producers.‡ 8.00 Sounds of Jazz.† 10.00 Close

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648 KHz (463m) at the following times GMT 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 From Our Own Correspondent 7.30 Classical Record Review 7.45 The End of the Affair 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 People and Politics. 9.45 Sports Review 10.15 Twentieth Century Folk. 10.30 Sunday Service 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 Play of the Week 1.00 World News. 1.09 Commentary 1.15 Good Books 1.30 Short Story. 1.45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 2.30 Smash of the Day The Navy Lark. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Concert Hall. 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.35 Financial Review 4.45 Letter from America. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary 8.15 Letterbox 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 World News. 10.09 Science in Action 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sportscall 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 Strictly Instrumental 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Religious Service. 1.00 The Ages of Man 1.45 Short Story 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Twentieth Century Folk. 2.30 The Red and the Black 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 The Instrument Makers 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 Newsdesk 5.45 Is Sin Out of Date?

BBC 1

BBC Cymru/Wales 2.00-2.25pm Tomorrow's World. 2.25-2.55 Ticket to Ride. 2.55-4.15 Sports Line-Up: International Rugby Union: Wales v France (highlights). 4.15-5.15 Rhaglen Hywel Gwyntryn. 5.15-5.45 Grange Hill. 11.20-11.50 Trol'r Dail. 11.50-12.15am Couples. 12.15 European Ice Figure Skating Championships. 1.05 News. Scotland 1.30-1.55pm Agenda. 6.40-7.15 A Bridge of Hymns. 9.45-10.15 Spectrum: Book Now. 10.15-10.35 Cantilena. 10.45-11.20 Coast To Coast. 12.05am News headlines. Northern Ireland 12.05am News headlines.

HTV West

As London except: Starts 9.00am-10.00 Sesame Street. 11.30-12.00 Be Your Own Boss. 1.00pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Diary. 2.00-2.30 Spread Your Wings. 4.30-6.30 Film: Jolson Sings Again (Larry Parks, Barbara Hale) Musical. Al Jolson's wife leaves him, and a successful return to Broadway is short-lived. 6.38-6.40 News. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Bizarre. 12.00 Closedown.

TSW

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Getting On. 11.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 South West Week. 1.00 pm Human Face of China. 1.30 Farming News. 2.00 Golf Doctor. 2.05-2.30 Gardens For All. 4.30 Bygones. 5.00 Radio. 6.00-6.30 Diff'rent Strokes. 7.15-8.15 Hawaii Five-O. 11.30 Bizarre. 12.00 Postscript. 12.05 am Closedown.

ANGLIA

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Paint Along With Nancy. 11.30-12.00 Be Your Own Boss. 1.00 Adventures of Black Beauty. 1.30 Weather Trends. 1.35 Farming Diary. 2.05 Cartoon. 2.30-3.30 Match of the Week. 4.30 Incredible Hulk. 5.30 Portrait of a Village: Wadenhoe, Northants. 6.00-6.30 Mr and Mrs. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Soap. 12.00 Make Mine Music. 12.30 am Mr Noah and his Ark.

ULSTER

As London except: Starts 11.00 am Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Time. 12.58 pm News. 1.00 University Challenge. 1.30 Give us a Clue. 2.00-2.30 Alphabet. 4.30-6.30 Film: Dolly Sisters (Betty Grable). Story of Hungarian-born sisters and their rise to fame and of their romances. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Sports Results. 11.35 Bedtime, Closedown.

GRANADA

As London except: Starts 9.35am-10.00 Wild, Wild, World of Animals. 11.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30-12.00 Down To Earth. 1.00pm University Challentge. 1.30 240 Robert. 2.25-3.30 Match Time. 4.30-6.30 Film: Anzio (Robert Mitchum, Arthur Kennedy). War correspondent joins American and British troops landing in Italy and at the siege at Anzio. 7.15-8.15 Hart To Hart. 11.30 Parents And Teenagers. 12.00 Benson. 12.30am Closedown.

TVS

As London except: Starts 9.10 am House Communion. 9.30-10.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 Stingray. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Farm Focus. 2.00 University Challenge. 2.30-3.30 Sunday Sportshow with Fred Dinenage. 4.30 Chips. 5.25 Radio. 6.25-6.30 News. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 News. 11.35 Nero Wolfe. 12.30 am Company, Closedown.

CENTRAL

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Time. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 2.00 Benson. 2.30-3.30 Star Soccer. 4.30-6.30 Film: Operation Crossbow (George Peppard, Tom Coutenay) Scientists are parachuted into Europe to destroy the Nazi rocket-making plant at Peenemunde. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 O'Hara, US Treasury (David Janssen). 12.30 am Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Getting On. 9.30-10.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.00 Lookaround. 11.02 Kum Kum. 11.30 Flying Kiwi. 11.58-12.00 News. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Welcome Back, Kotter. 2.30-3.30 Shoot! 4.30 News. 4.32 Incredible Hulk. 5.30-6.30 Little House on the Prairie. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Then Came Bronson. 12.30 am Epilogue. 12.35 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Jaywalkung. 11.30-12.00 Be Your Own Boss. 1.00 pm Out of Town. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Cartoon. 2.15 University Challenge. 2.45-3.30 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 4.00 Mork and Mindy. 4.30 Scotsport. 5.30 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Tell the Story. 6.15-6.30 By the Way. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 New Avengers. 12.30 am Late Call.

GRAMPIAN

As London except: Starts 9.15 am Seachd Laithean. 9.30 am-10.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 Take Issue. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00-3.30 Film: Fancy Pants (Bob Hope, Lucille Ball) Slapstick comedy about American tourist in Europe. 4.30 Scotsport. 5.30-6.30 Chips. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 Barney Miller. 12.05 am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As London except: Starts 9.00 am Getting On. 9.25 Wild, Wild World of Animals. 9.55-10.00 Bubblies. 11.00 Be Your Own Boss. 11.30-12.00 Farming Diary. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Calendar. 2.00 New Fred and Barney Show. 2.30-3.30 Big Game. 4.30-6.30 Film: Anzio (Robert Mitchum, Arthur Kennedy) War correspondent joins troops in the 1944 landing in Italy and at the siege of Anzio. 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30 Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. 12.20 am Five Minutes. 12.25 Closedown.

SDP 'scratching like weasels' on Tebbit union Bill

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey and Mr Roy Hattersley last night poured scorn on the Social Democratic Party decision to vote for the second reading of Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill in the Commons on Monday.

And Mr Eric Ogden, the Social Democrat MP for Liverpool, West Derby, issued a statement which savaged his Commons colleagues' majority decision of Thursday night.

Mr Healey dubbed the new party "Tebbit's Troopers", and said its leaders were "biting and scratching one another like weasels in a sack". His Shadow Cabinet colleague, Mr Hattersley, said that Monday's new-found alliance between the SDP and the Tories would be a meeting of opportunism and conservatism.

He added: "Their hope of picking up a few suburban anti-trade union votes is the tactical reason for the conversion of recently trade union-sponsored MPs into bitter opponents of trade unionism."

The most wounding criticism came, however, in Mr Ogden's version of Thursday's two-hour internal SDP debate

He stated: "We are agreed that this is a political Bill, introduced primarily to appease the anti-trade union factions in the Conservative Party. We are agreed the Bill will do little or nothing to improve industrial relations and will embitter relations between the trade unions and the Government.

"We share the concern of many major employers about the dangerous effects of the Bill."

Mr Ogden, who was formerly sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "My own individual conclusion is that this is a bad, political Bill, which does not deserve support in any way."

Mrs Shirley Williams, another potential SDP rebel, yesterday returned to the leadership fold when she allowed her name to go down as the leading sponsor for three SDP parliamentary instructions on the Bill.

These called for an extension of the Bill's scope to include industrial democracy, internal union democracy and the unions' political levy. It was suggested last night that Mrs Williams, by putting her name to the party motion, had agreed to go into the Government lobby on Monday.

Mr Hattersley said of reports that Mrs Williams was considering rebellion: "Mrs Williams is stepping daintily aside from the mire in which some of her colleagues are floundering. She has 'let it be known' that she has doubts about the Tebbit Bill. 'Letting it be known' is one of Mrs Williams's favourite techniques.

"She does not hawk her conscience around. She leaks her conscience around."

Meanwhile, at a Labour Solidarity Campaign meeting in West Bromwich, Mr Healey denounced Mr Roy Jenkins as "a fastidious Rob Roy", cast Dr David Owen as "the JR of this shabby soap opera" and concluded that the Conservatives, the Liberals and the Social Democrats were falling apart.

He then skated delicately around Labour's own problems, saying: "The Labour movement, thank Heaven, is at last pulling together", but in a hint of policy disputes to come, added: "We must concentrate all our efforts on putting our agreed policies over, and reaching agreement where differences still exist."

Although he did not say so, Mr Healey is aware that those differences will not be resolved without rancour and without breach of the Bishop's Stortford peace pact.

The Liberals yesterday announced that both they and the alliance had scored five local by-election victories on Thursday night. They claimed a Liberal gain from Labour in Mid-Devon, a Liberal gain from the Conservatives in Woodley, Reading, and alliance gains from the Conservatives in a two-member seat at Lymm, in Cheshire. The Liberals also held one of their own seats on Medina Borough Council, Isle of Wight.

Reagan, Ronald: First Citizen...

First Citizen in First House. **Born**—February 6, 1911: 1792-99. **Birthplace**—Tampico, Illinois: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. **Name**—Ronald Reagan: Oval Room, White House. **Dimensions**—6ft, pushing 13 stone: 170ft long, 100 rooms. **Material**—all-American beefcake: grey Virginia freestone. **Colour**—reporters have found no trace of dye in his hair clippings, but he does seem to be turning orange with old age: painted white since 1814 to hide scorch-marks left by Brits. **Description**—"I'm a ham, always was, always will be": Neoclassical Ionic portico and balustrade, modelled by James Hoban on the seat of the Duke of Leinster near Dublin. **Comment**—Jack Warner: "No, No! Jimmy Stewart for President, Reagan for best friend": the Oval Room has over the years housed extraordinary assemblies of talent, none more so than when Thomas Jefferson dined alone. Mr Reagan is 71 today. (Photograph by Arnold Newman, text by Philip Howard).

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions

Drawings and watercolours by Joseph Crawhall, Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, 10 to 5.

Centenary exhibition, Ipswich Museum and Gallery, High Street, Ipswich, 10 to 4.45.

Japanese festivals — exhibition for children about Japanese life and traditions, Haggs Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15.

Paris sans Fin: lithographs by Alberto Giacometti, Printmakers Workshop, Edinburgh, 10 to 5.30.

Hurry along please, hundred years' of public transport in Oxfordshire, Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, 10 to 4.

Arts Council collection: Fragments against ruin, Art Gallery, Bilston, 10 to 5.

Gum bichromate prints by Paul Brewer, 12 to 4 and 6 to 9; and work by John Harper, 12 to 4 and 6 to 9; Chapter Gallery, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff.

Music

Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.

Concert by the Scottish Early Music Consort, St Andrew's University, St Andrews, 8.

Last chance to see

Bird art exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, 10 to 5.

Solution of Puzzle No. 15,743

Solution of Puzzle No 15,748

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,749

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's competition is Mr F. Driver, 58, Eccleston Square, London SW1.*

Name ....

Address ....

ACROSS

1 Stuffs — with this? (6-4).
6 Commercial turned up very loud (4).
9 VI's a warning weapon (3-7).
10 Country lacking a prominent feature (4).
12 Orton embraces animal friend, rightly (12).
15 Confusion when one thousand trains are given fuel to go backwards (9).
17 Go in for chips, but no fish (5).
18 South coast resort student's poor accommodation (5).
19 Plots against king circumvented by agents (9).
20 Ungainly youths limped badly — Oh yes? (12).
24 One without a heart found in this state (4).
25 Revive and create pure havoc (10).
26 Boy in a whirl (4).
27 Help when one's rejected position (10).

DOWN

1 Many a tree can be a source of money (4).
2 Chopper — it turned around to run across the airfield (4).
3 Martians are so impractical! (5-7).
4 Angry with nonsense replacing it (5).
5 More than one ball dress right inside is too big (9).
7 Padding out lush poetry (10).
8 Deny scarf's improper costume (5,5).
11 It doesn't quite fill the bill (12).
13 Settle us in a part of Plymouth, as a warning to sailors (10).
14 Straight over to the Council (5-5).
16 For clarity, include different points (9).
21 Taking time over one's beauty ... (5).
22 ... with husband around, one might (4).
23 Nothing but water (4).

We apologise for two misprints in early editions yesterday. The word "in" in clues 2 down and 24 down should have been "on".

Tomorrow's events

Exhibitions

Paintings by Elizabeth Blackadder, National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff, 2.30 to 5.

Photographer as printmaker, Castle Museum, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45.

Prints by Ceri Richards, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, 2 to 5.

Drawings and prints of the romantic period, 1790-1840, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 2 to 4.

History of the traction engine, paintings by David Weston, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 2 to 5.

Talks, lectures

A closer look: *Constable's The Leaping Horse*, by Eileen Graham, 3.30; and European wood sculpture, by Malcolm Baker, 3.30; both at Victoria and Albert Museum.

Four centuries of British landscape interpretations, by Laurence Bradbury, 3; and painting of the month, J. M. Turner: Snow Storm: Hannibal and his Army crossing the Alps, 2.30-2.45; both at Tate Gallery.

Music

Gala performance by past students of the *Guildhall School of Music and Drama*, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, EC1, 7.30.

Children's concert with Steven Isserlis (cello), Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, N5, 5.

Last chance to see

Practical Woodworking Exhibition, *Wembley Conference Centre*, 10 to 6.

Walks

Picturesque Hampstead village and the Heath, meet Hampstead Underground, 11.

Rustic charm of Highgate village and woodlands, meet Archway Underground, 2.30.

A Dickens' 170th birthday walk, meet St Paul's Underground, 11.

Discovering London—Mayfair, meet Green Park Underground, 2.

1880s East End Murders—Jack the Ripper, meet Tower Hill Underground, 2.

In the garden

If the ground is fit to work plant shallots, just covering the bulbs with soil. Cover strawberries with glass or plastic cloches to obtain fruits two or three weeks earlier. Plastic tunnel cloches are good value, of easy access and anchored firmly in the ground.

Check pot plants in the home or in a greenhouse for pests. Greenfly and scale insects (little brown shiny insects underneath the leaves) breed freely in the warmth of a living room or greenhouse, and spray with a suitable insecticide such as pirimiphos-methyl. Buying insecticides or other chemicals in aerosol spray cans may be expensive compared with a bottle of concentrate that you dilute and apply with a sprayer. But so often we have only a few plants that need treating that an aerosol spray is not only quick and easy to use but also reaches upper and lower leaf surfaces effectively. R.H.

Weekend travel

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—Rail: 01-246 8030; Road: 01-246 8031; Sea: 01-246 8032; Air: 01-246 8033.

Air

Laker Airways said last night it was impossible as yet to advise booked passengers what to do today, or whether they would be able to get away on other operators' flights. Passengers should get in touch with their travel agents or telephone 01-668 9363 for information.

British Caledonian is to repatriate on available British Caledonian flights Laker Airways' scheduled service passengers stranded in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Tickets on British Caledonian flights between London Gatwick and Atlanta, Houston, Dallas or Ft Worth and St Louis will be provided on a space available basis, on presentation of the return half of Laker Airways' North Atlantic scheduled service tickets.

For further information telephone Gatwick (0293) 25555.

British Airways, PanAm and Air Florida are also offering to assist stranded passengers.

Rail

Run down of British Rail services because of tomorrow's strike by Aslef drivers begins tonight: passengers should aim to reach destinations by 10 p.m. No overnight trains. No very early trains on Monday.

French protest

The work-to-rule by French customs officers is expected to ease somewhat today and tomorrow. A French school holiday starts this weekend and border traffic, specially towards ski slopes in Switzerland, was expected to be heavy. The protest could be stepped up next week.

Roadworks

North: A1(M): inside lane closed southbound at Scotch Corner (North Yorkshire). A1: Between Selby and Wetherby outside lanes closed. A66: traffic lights are in use between North Bitts and Great Bridge, County Durham.

Scotland: A83: 3½ miles southwest of Inveraray Bridge replacement. Temporary diversion and single line traffic with lights. *A93*: Two miles north of Bridge of Cally, bridge repairs, single line traffic.

Information *supplied* by the AA.

Computer Carshare

A company was launched in London yesterday offering to link would-be car sharers (drivers or passengers) by computer. The subscription is £12 for the first year, £6 thereafter, and the intention is to organize a national network. Carshare, Rococo House, 283 City Road, London EC1 1LA (01-253 3535 or 01-200 0200).

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.79	1.71
Austria Sch	32.25	30.25
Belgium Fr	86.00	82.00
Canada $	2.34	2.25
Denmark Kr	14.91	14.16
Finland Mkk	8.74	8.29
France Fr	11.58	10.98
Germany DM	4.56	4.31
Greece Dr	123.50	114.50
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.23
Italy Lir	2430.00	2330.00
Japan Yn	462.00	436.00
Netherlands Gld	4.99	4.73
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94
Portugal Esc	133.00	125.00
South Africa Rd	2.05	1.90
Spain Pta	195.50	186.50
Sweden Kr	11.14	10.56
Switzerland Fr	3.68	3.46
USA $	1.93	1.86

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index was up 3.3 at 578.8.

The papers

The **Daily Mail**, mourning for Sir Freddie Laker, comments today that it is difficult to overlook the snooty attitude of the financial establishment of the City of London which could have saved him without straining overmuch either its resources or its principles

"The risk takers like Sir Freddie wh ogive capitalism a good name are to them only an embarrassment. They will surely live to regret their failure to come to the aid of one who has done so much to popularize the free market system by which they live", it says.

The **London Standard** wrote last night that the benefits Sir Freddie has won for th eordinary traveller will not be lost. "Equally, they will not ever be forgotten by his legion of admirers.".

The **Washington Post** said that President Mubarok of Egypt was on the right track in demandnig that an autonomy agreement draw in mainline Palestinians.

Commenting on Chancellor Schmidt's vote of confidence, the **Stuttgarter Zeitung** sees "problems of a coalition that is no longer functioning" and says that th evote puts even more distance between the Chancellor and his party.

Sporting fixtures

Football: Full league programme (see Page 20).

Racing: Meetings at Kempton Park, 1.30; Stratford-upon-Avon, 1.45; Wetherby, 1.00.

Rugby Union: England v Ireland, Twickenham, 2.30; Wales v France, Cardiff, 2.30.

Fencing: De Beaumont Cup, London.

Hockey: Club championship, various venues.

Squash rackets: Inter County finals, Lee-on-Solent.

Fencing: De Beaumont Cup, London.

Sport on TV

BBC1: 12.15, Grandstand including 12.20 Football Focus, 12.50 Racing from Wetherby, 1.10 World skiing championships, 1.40 World bobsleigh championships, 2.20 International Rugby Union; 9.40, Match of the Day.

ITV: 12.15, World of Sport including 12.20 On the Ball, 12.45 Skiing, 1.0 High diving, 1.20 ITV Seven—racing, 3.10 Swimming and athletics, 4.0 Wrestling.

Tomorrow

BBC1: 3.20, European ice figure skating championships.

BBC2: 4.10, Ski Sunday; 4.55, Rugby special; 9.5, International pro-celebrity golf.

ITV: 2.30, London news headlines followed by The Big Match.

Anniversaries today

Queen Anne was born, London, 1665; **Ugo Foscolo**, in Xante, Ionian Isles, 1778; **Charles Wheatstone**, physicist, in Gloucester, 1802; **Henry Irving** in Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, 1838; **Charles II** died in Whitehall Place, 1685; **Lancelot ("Capability") Brown**, landscape gardener, in 1783; **Carlo Goldoni** in Paris, 1793; **George VI** at Sandringham: accession of **Queen Elizabeth II**, 1952.

Tomorrow

Thomas More was born in London, 1478 and **Charles Dickens** at Portsmouth, 1812. **William Boyce**, composer, died in London 1779.

Auction viewing today

Phillips, Blenheim Street: furniture, carpets, objects, 9 to 12; prints, 9 to 12.

Weather

Frontal troughs will move across N and W areas of the United Kingdom.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Anglia: Mainly dry, sunny periods developing; wind SW, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 10 or 11C (50 to 52F).

Cent S, E, cent N England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, early morning fog patches, sunny periods becoming cloudy during evening; wind SW, moderate, backing S, fresh; max temp 10 or 11C (50 to 52F).

SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Bright at first, cloud thickening with some outbreaks of rain; wind SW or S, fresh, increasing strong; max temp 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands: Becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain spreading from W, turning showery later; wind S, strong, veering SW later; max temp 8 or 9c (46 to 48F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Bright intervals at first, becoming cloudy, some outbreaks of rain later; wind S or SW, fresh, locally strong; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Becoming cloudy, rain spreading from W, turning showery later; wind S, strong, increasing gale force and veering SW; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).

Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, becoming showery with some brighter intervals; wind S, veering SW, strong to gale force; max temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).

NW Scotland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, becoming showery with some brighter intervals; wind S, veering SW, strong to severe gale force; max temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Showers, chiefly in the N and W, bright intervals, near normal temperatures, patchy overnight fog and frost.

SEA PASSAGES: S north Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind mainly SW, fresh; sea mainly moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW, strong to gale, veering W, fresh; Sea mainly rough.

Sun rises: 7.32 am | Sun sets: 4.59 pm
Moon sets: 5.20 am | Moon rises: 2.44 pm
Full Moon: February 8.

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.30 am | Sun sets: 5.01 pm
Moon sets: 7.10 am | Moon rises: 3.58 pm
Full moon: Tomorrow.

Lighting up time

London 5.29 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 5.39 pm to 7.09 am
Edinburgh 5.26 pm to 7.26 am
Manchester 5.33 pm to 7.12 am
Penzance 5.36 pm to 7.16 am

TOMORROW

London 5.31 pm to 6.58 am
Bristol 4.40 pm to 7.08 am
Edinburgh 5.29 pm to 7.24 am
Manchester 5.38 pm to 7.12 am
Penzance 5.46 pm to 7.16 am

Yesterday

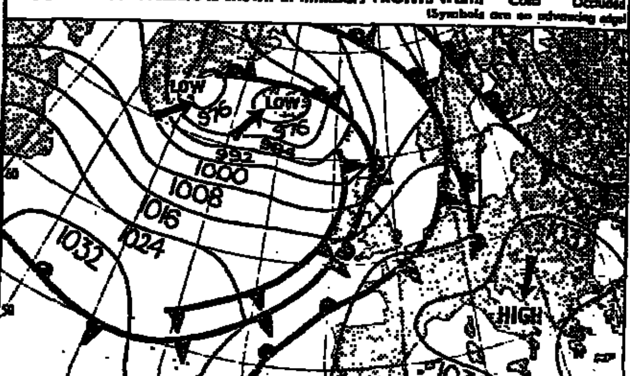
Temperatures midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain.

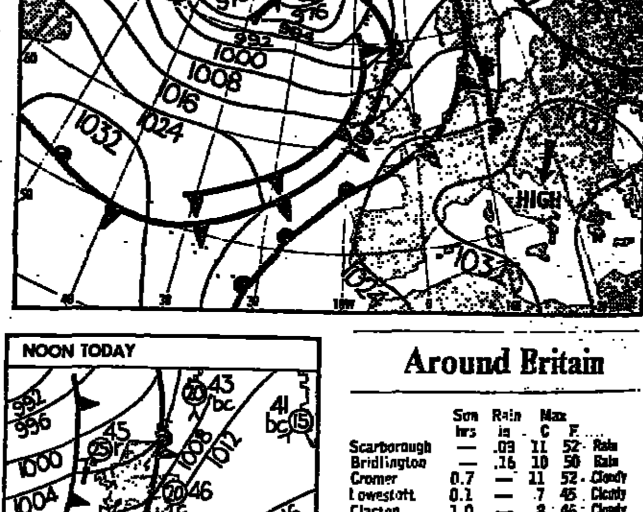
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	11	52	Guernsey	c	9	48
Blackpool	r	9	48	Inverness	c	9	48
Bristol	r	11	52	Jersey	c	10	50
Edinburgh	c	10	50	London	c	11	52
Birmingham	r	10	50	Manchester	r	9	48
Cardiff	r	11	52	Newcastle	r	9	48
Glasgow	c	10	50	Ronaldsway	c	9	48

Satellite predictions

LONDON: Cosmos 1220: 19.1-19.5: WNW; 20NNW; N*. (Feb 7) 18.11-18.18: W; 30NW: NNE and 19.56-19.58: NNW; 15N; N*. Cosmos 1286: (Feb 7) 6.46-6.51: SSW; 40SSE; ENE. Ananda DR: (Feb 7) 2.43-2.45: NNE—: NE and 4.26-4.35: NNW*: 25NNE: E and 6.11-6.23; NNW, 85E: SSE. (Feb 8) 2.51-2.53: NNE*. 15NNE; NE and 4.34-4.43: NNW—: 30NNE; E and 6.19-6.30; NW; 75SW; SSE.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1220: 19.0-19.5: W: 30NW: N* and 20.44-20.45; NW: 15NNW; NNW*. (Feb 7) 18.11-18.18; : 40NW; NE and 19.55-19.58; NW; 20N; N*. Ananda DR: (Feb 7) 2.43-2.45; NNE*: 15NNE; NE and 4.26-4.34; NNW*; 30NNE; NNE and 6.10-6.22; NW; 85NNE; SE. (Feb 8) 2.51-2.53; NNE; 15NNE; NE and 4.34-4.43; NNW*; 35NE; E and 6.18-6.30; NW; 75WSW; SSE. Seasat: 18.32-18.37; N; 15NNW; NW. (Feb 7) 18.0-18.6; NNE; 20NNW; WNW. Aryabhata R: (Feb 7) 5.9-5.12; SE*; 45SE; ESE and 6.44-6.50: WSW*: 30SW: SE and (Feb [illegible]





b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	—	.03	11	52	Rain
Bridlington	—	.16	10	50	Rain
Cromer	0.7	—	11	52	Cloudy
Lowestoft	0.1	—	7	45	Cloudy
Clacton	1.0	—	8	46	Cloudy
Margate	0.8	—	11	52	Cloudy
Folkestone	3.2	—	9	48	Sun ints
Hastings	0.2	—	9	48	Cloudy
Eastbourne	0.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Worthing	0.4	—	10	50	Cloudy
Littlehampton	0.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Bognor Regis	0.2	—	9	48	Cloudy
Shanklin	0.3	—	10	50	Cloudy
Bournemouth	—	.11	9	48	Rain
Poole	0.1	.17	11	52	Sun ints
Swanage	—	.07	9	48	Rain
Weymouth	—	.18	11	52	Showers
Aldergrove	2.3	.16	11	52	Showers
Eskdalemuir	—	.96	11	52	Rain
Prestwick	0.8	.07	11	52	Cloudy
Abbotsinch	0.6	.16	12	54	Cloudy
Tiree	3.2	.57	8	48	Showers
Stornoway	2.3	.15	10	50	Showers
Lerwick	—	.16	7	45	Rain
Wick	0.4	.04	8	46	Cloudy
Kinloss	0.1	.01	12	54	Shwrs pm
Dyce	0.1	.10	10	50	Cloudy
Leuchars	0.2	.07	10	50	Cloudy

London

Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 81 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.3hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1020.1 millibars, steady.

1.000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Lossiemouth, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lowestoft, Lerwick, Fair Isle, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, 0.96in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Folkestone, 3.2hr.

High tides

Today

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge			12.10	6.6
Aberdeen	11.43	4.0		
Avonmouth	5.20	11.9	5.56	12.3
Belfast	9.17	3.4	9.46	3.3
Cardiff	5.07	11.1	5.42	11.4
Devonport	4.00	5.1	4.36	5.0
Dover	9.10	6.0	9.52	6.2
Falmouth	3.30	4.9	4.05	4.8
Glasgow	11.11	4.4	11.57	4.4
Harwich	10.00	3.6	10.32	3.6
Holyhead	8.39	5.2	9.07	5.3
Hull	4.24	6.9	4.57	6.9
Ilfracombe	4.04	8.3	4.38	8.5
Leith	12.27	5.1	1.06	5.2
Liverpool	9.31	8.7	9.59	9.0
Lowestoft	7.38	2.4	8.06	2.3
Margate	10.10	4.4	10.47	4.4
Milford Haven	4.23	6.3	4.57	6.5
Newquay	3.17	6.4	3.50	6.6
Oban	4.20	3.5	4.58	3.7
Penzance	3.03	5.2	3.37	5.1
Portland	4.50	1.8	5.41	1.7
Portsmouth	9.33	4.4	10.13	4.4
Shoreham	9.24	5.8	9.59	6.0
Southampton	9.7	4.3	9.42	4.4
Swansea	4.31	8.7	5.05	8.9
Tees	1.48	5.0	2.15	5.1
Wltn-on-the-Nze	9.59	3.8	10.30	3.9

Tomorrow

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.43	6.7	1.10	6.9
Aberdeen	12.14	4.1	12.32	4.2
Avonmouth	6.21	12.6	6.52	12.9
Belfast	10.04	3.6	10.33	3.4
Cardiff	6.07	11.7	6.38	11.9
Devonport	5.03	6.3	5.36	5.2
Dover	10.09	6.3	10.41	6.4
Falmouth	4.33	5.1	5.04	5.0
Glasgow			12.08	4.7
Harwich	10.59	3.8	11.23	3.7
Holyhead	9.29	5.5	9.56	5.5
Hull	5.25	7.2	5.46	7.3
Ilfracombe	5.02	8.8	5.32	9.0
Leith	1.29	5.4	1.59	5.4
Liverpool	10.26	9.2	10.52	9.3
Lowestoft	8.42	2.4	8.58	2.4
Margate	11.16	4.5	11.42	4.5
Milford Haven	5.22	6.8	5.50	6.9
Newquay	4.14	6.8	4.41	6.9
Oban	5.09	3.8	5.44	3.8
Penzance	4.02	5.4	4.33	5.3
Portland	5.57	2.1	6.43	1.9
Portsmouth	10.30	4.5	11.06	4.6
Shoreham	10.19	6.1	10.52	6.2
Southampton	9.58	4.5	10.32	4.6
Swansea	5.29	9.2	5.58	9.3
Tees	2.43	5.2	3.04	5.4
Wltn-on-the-Nze	10.55	4.0	11.19	4.0

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	13	55	Chicago				Los Angeles				Rhodes	s	8	46
Akrotiri	c	11	52	Cologne	s	6	43	Luxembourg	s	5	41	Riyadh	f	19	66
Algiers	s	16	61	Copenhagen	c	−1	30	Las Angeles				Rio de Janeiro			
Alexandria	c	13	55	Corfu	s	11	52	Luxembourg	s	5	41	Rome	s	11	52
Amsterdam	c	7	45	Dallas				Madrid	s	11	52	Salzburg	s	3	37
Athens	f	7	45	Dublin	f	12	54	Majorca	f	14	57	Seoul	s	−1	30
Bahrain	c	19	66	Dubrovnik	s	10	50	Malaga	s	17	63	Singapore		N/R	
Barcelona	s	13	55	Faro	s	16	61	Malta	c	13	55	Stockholm	f	−7	19
Barbados				Florence	s	11	52	Milan	fog	−1	30	Strasbourg	s	3	37
Beirut	f	9	48	Frankfurt	s	−1	30	Moscow	c	−4	25	Sydney		N/R	
Berlin	s	1	34	Funchal	s	18	64	Munich	s	3	37	Tangier	f	18	64
Belgrade	s	0	32	Geneva	c	3	37	Nairobi	f	29	84	Tel Aviv	f	12	54
Bermuda				Gibraltar	f	16	61	Naples	s	8	46	Tenerife	s	22	72
Biarritz	f	17	63	Helsinki	sn	—	23	New York				Tokyo	f	7	45
Boulogne	f	10	50	Hongkong	c	17	63	Nice	s	13	55	Tunis	s	19	66
Boston				Innsbruck	s	1	34	Oslo	sn	−7	19	Valencia	c	14	57
Bordeaux	f	13	55	Istanbul	f	0	32	Paris	c	10	50	Venice	s	4	39
Brussels	f	9	48	Jeddah	s	25	77	Prague	c	−4	25	Vienna	s	0	32
Budapest	s	1	34	Johannesburg	f	28	82	Reykjavik	r	5	37	Warsaw	s	1	34
Cairo	c	15	59	Las Palmas	s	23	73	[illegible]				Washington			
Casablanca	f	19	66	Lisbon	f	24	75	Peking	s	4	39	Zurich	s	3	37